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75¢



## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism in the new Inos-Hofscheider administration?

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to cast your vote.

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MAFEA has a new set of officers.  
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### LIFE & STYLE



Rosa Parks gets a statue in the U.S. Capitol.  
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Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs late Wednesday afternoon a letter requesting the assistance of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad in apprehending and bringing back former attorney general and now fugitive from justice Edward T. Buckingham III to face multiple felony and misdemeanor charges against him.  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

# Inos signs EXTRADITION REQUEST

➤ **Buckingham's lawyer objects, but governor firm**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

## More rooms needed to sustain tourism recovery

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's hotel industry seems to be on a path to recovery after registering a very encouraging 91.05 percent occupancy rate in January 2013. This is the highest hotel occupancy rate for the

Commonwealth in the past 15 years. The last time the islands saw such a record-breaking number was in January 1998, at 91.96 percent.

Don't get too excited, though, cautions Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan GM and chairman of the Hotel

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Exactly a week after being sworn in as the CNMI's seventh chief executive, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed late Wednesday afternoon a letter to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad asking for his help in extraditing former attorney general and now fugitive from justice Edward T. Buckingham III to face multiple felony and misdemeanor charges that the Office of the Public Auditor filed against him.

See EXTRADITION on Page 4

## Crisostomo gets max sentence in 'ice' case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

"Welcome to my court! You can be sure that you will get the justice you deserve."

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho had that message yesterday for Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, sentencing him to the maximum of five years and six months in prison for possession of less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice" and criminal contempt.

Some of about 10 police officers who

watched the proceeding were seen nodding their heads and a few exclaimed "Yes!" after hearing the sentence handed down on Crisostomo. Other people in the gallery were relatives and friends of slain bartender Emerita Romero.

» **Judge to defendant: 'Justice is long overdue'**

The 39-year-old Crisostomo has been charged in her murder.

"Mr. Crisostomo, it is absolutely crystal clear that in your case, justice is long overdue!" the judge said.

Expressionless, Crisostomo leaned



Crisostomo

slightly forward on the table beside his counsel, acting chief public defender Douglas Hartig.

Crisostomo was sentenced to five years for illegal possession of "ice" and the maximum of six months for criminal contempt.

The five years and six months imprisonment shall be served day to day, without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work or weekend release, or any other similar program.

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## Local

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## PSS asks for \$40M for 2014

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has approved the submission of a revised proposal seeking a \$40-million budget for public schools next fiscal year.

This is an increase from the \$37.8 million that the fiscal personnel affairs committee earlier recommended.

PSS consultant Ed Tenorio said during the Wednesday board meeting that the new budget plan intends to restore nearly 100 positions—mostly classroom teachers, counselors, and program staffers.

The proposal was submitted yesterday to the Office of Budget and Management, which is consolidating all budget requests of government agencies for submission to the Legislature by April 1.

PSS' \$40-million request is broken down into \$31.5 million for personnel costs, including benefits; \$3.6 million for operation and all others; \$1 million for school repairs; \$4.3 million for utilities; and \$50,000 for the Board of Education's budget.

On Feb. 14, the FPA committee endorsed a budget proposal of \$37.8 million, with 70 teaching positions to be restored.

According to Tenorio, the additional \$2.2 million under the revised budget is needed in order to restore other critical positions such as counselors, program managers, and key

## Search for missing snorkeler ends

Rescue teams ended yesterday their search for 61-year-old clinical psychologist Reinhold Armo Meister, who was swept out to sea from Obyan Beach while snorkeling late Tuesday afternoon.

"Today is the last day," Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said, referring to yesterday's third day of the search.

Blas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon that there is still no sign of the missing Meister.

support staff.

If the \$40-million request is approved, that will mean all schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will have their own counselors next school year, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.

Some schools currently do not have either vice principals or counselors due to budget constraints.

Also considered in the proposal is a separate line-item amount for pupil transportation after PSS lost the authority to handle U.S. Federal Transportation Authority grants. That is now being handled by the local FTA office in the CNMI. These grants fund school buses, vans, and maintenance costs.

Tenorio disclosed that the revised proposal also includes a "very slight" salary adjustment for PSS staff who are earning below \$10,000 per annum. "They're now just a bit beyond the minimum wage [rate of \$5.05 an hour]."

The adjustment will boost these employees' wages to \$11,631 per annum next fiscal year.

PSS is, however, unable to adjust the wages and salaries of other personnel, Tenorio said, due to the impact of "sequestration" on federal funds for the system.

Also, even if PSS succeeds in securing \$40 million for next fiscal year, it will still not lift its across-the-board conservation policy, Sablan said.

Meister was reportedly last seen in the waters off Obyan Beach at 4:45pm Tuesday, wearing a long-sleeved blue shirt, a pair of yellow shorts, and a diving mask with snorkel.

The Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit, Fire Search and Rescue Unit, CNMI Homeland Security Office, the Emergency Management Office, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and a U.S. Navy helicopter joined in the search. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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**Girl Talk**

# Bid to modify bail of suspect in foiled robbery rejected

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

For the second time, a request to modify the \$75,000 bail imposed on a teenager accused of slicing the throat of a security guard during a foiled robbery was rejected.

In an order issued yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said he is not convinced that suspect Ed-

ward Deleon Guerrero will be able to control his "propensity for violence" and comply with any rules the court will order for his pre-trial release.

Camacho is also not convinced that the supervision of third-party custodians Jose and Angela Aldan will be enough to control the 18-year-old suspect.

Deleon Guerrero, through assistant public defender Dan-

iel Guidotti, had proposed that his aunt, Angela Aldan, and uncle Jose C. Aldan be his third-party custodians, on top of a property bond in lieu of the \$75,000 cash bail.

Camacho said, however, that the Aldan couple are not suitable as third-party custodians due to their testimonies that they have never been in a situation where they had to

discipline Deleon Guerrero.

"The court is not convinced given the defendant's capability for sudden violent behavior that Mr. and Mrs. Aldan will be able to supervise and control the defendant," the judge said.

At the hearing Wednesday afternoon, Angela Aldan appeared visibly shaken after being shown pictures of the victim's sliced throat and being told of the charges against her nephew.

Camacho noted the change in Angela Aldan's demeanor after being shown the pictures.

"The court can appreciate Mrs. Aldan's desire to extend a

helping hand to defendant and his family [but], for a woman having no experience controlling the defendant, this is not the time to 'just try it and see what will happen,'" Camacho said.

Based on Angela Aldan's demeanor, she is plainly not up to the task necessary to control the defendant, Camacho added.

It is alleged that Deleon Guerrero went to Skyway Café Poker on Airport Road on Feb. 3 past midnight. Using a knife, he allegedly repeatedly stabbed the arcade's security guard, Fernando Martin.

Martin, 48, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was treated for lacerations on his neck, ear, and right thumb.

The defendant fled but later time turned himself in to police. He allegedly confessed to a police officer that it was his intention to rob Skyway Café Poker.

Last Feb. 6, Camacho also rejected Deleon Guerrero's motion to modify the bail.

Deleon Guerrero is charged with aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and minor consuming liquor.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown is prosecuting the case.

## CPA board chair submits courtesy resignation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Jose R. Lifofoi, a loyal ally of former governor Benigno R. Fitial and a long-time appointee to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, submitted his courtesy resignation yesterday to give the Inos administration a free hand in selecting or retaining officials at the agency.

In a one-page letter addressed to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lifofoi described his action as the appropriate decision.

"It is, in my view, an appropriate practice to tender a courtesy resignation with the transition to a new administration to consider the policy considerations of the new administration. Although you have not requested such courtesy resignation, I feel it is important that your administration be given the opportu-

## Tax credits eyed for hiring US citizens

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) is proposing incentives through tax credits to private employers that hire U.S. citizens.

Under his proposal, an employer who hires a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident who has been unemployed for more than six months may qualify for a nonrefundable credit of \$2,500 per worker against the tax imposed on CNMI-sourced income.

In order to qualify for the proposed tax credit, the employee hired must be continuously employed by the employer for at least two quarters of the tax year.

To obtain the nonrefundable credit, the employer must furnish the Division of Revenue and Taxation with a compliance letter from the Department of Labor, certifying that the employer complies with these provisions.

Sablan, a former CNMI immigration director, said his House Bill 18-21 expands on an existing U.S. law called the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment, or HIRE, Act, signed into law by Obama on March 18, 2010.

The HIRE Act provides two tax benefits to employers who hire previously unemployed workers—employers are exempted from paying their 6.2 percent share of social security taxes, and for each worker retained for at least a year, a business may claim up to \$1,000 per worker when they

nity to select or retain directors or agency heads, including the Commonwealth Ports Authority," stated Lifofoi.

Lifofoi was just re-elected CPA board chairman in January. His resignation letter indicated that it becomes effective upon the governor's acceptance.

Lifofoi is currently chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. He was House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature and also the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

According to press secretary Angel A. Demapan yesterday, the governor has not made any decision yet on Lifofoi's resignation.

"The governor has not accepted any courtesy resignations at this time. This matter is currently under advisement until a decision is handed down by the governor," Demapan said.

file their 2011 tax returns.

"Although this tax deduction is already available to CNMI employers, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide further and more meaningful tax incentive by providing for a tax credit against the NMITT," Sablan said. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Lifofoi quit the ports authority board in 2007 but was reappointed a year after. Lifofoi's current term at CPA is due on Jan. 17, 2015.

During the board's January meeting, members briefly discussed the issue of governor Fitial's impeachment. At the same meeting, director Benigno Sablan urged members that if the governor is convicted, it is only proper that all board members submit courtesy resignations to the new governor.

As of yesterday, Lifofoi is the only one on the CPA board who has turned in a courtesy resignation.

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# Tempers flare at Senate session

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Tempers flared as senators deliberated yesterday on administration-sponsored House bills increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points by April 1 and expediting the release of NMI Retirement Fund refunds, both of which they ended up not voting on for at least another week.

Senators, however, passed other resolutions and bills including Senate floor leader Ray Yumul's (IR-Saipan) bill transferring the administrative

functions of the Government Health and Life Insurance Program from the NMI Retirement Fund to the Department of Finance, as part of joint Senate and House efforts to help prolong the Fund's lifespan beyond March 2014.

Initially, Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) wanted Yumul's bill to be referred to her Fiscal Affairs Committee for review

She said Senate Bill 18-11 "helps the Retirement Fund but will hurt the general fund."

Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said if the Senate does not act on the bill and

the Fund "falls apart," the CNMI will be in much deeper trouble. He, however, said the government should not be in the business of competing with the private sector and proposes whether a request for proposal can be issued for a private entity to provide health and life insurance to government employees.

Members, however, decided to vote on the bill. SB 18-11 passed by a vote of 6-0, with two absences and one vacancy.

The debates were more intense and tempers flared when senators were debating a House bill increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points.

Taimanao asked that the bill be re-

ferred to a committee so that senators would know first the "financial impact of the bill."

"We are supposed to be really making positive assessments as to what is the validity of the bills that we're passing and how it would impact the people of the CNMI," Taimanao told reporters right after the session ended.

House Bill 18-2, House Draft 1 increases the hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent.

It also amends three revenue-generating bills signed into law during the 17th Legislature that were never implemented because of different reasons including federal restrictions on

imposing additional charges on passengers to the CNMI and hotels' lack of authority and direction to collect additional charges from tourists or transient customers.

Taimanao said the Senate should learn from past mistakes, when they passed bills only to repeal them later on.

Reyes said he hopes there are no "personal feelings" and "personal interests" involved in delaying actions on these bills. For example, he said other senators may have been thinking about the impact on their own apartment or housing rentals because of the bill's definition of "transient occupants."

## ROOMS

From Page 1

Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. That phenomenal number is only because it's traditionally peak season for the industry.

Guarded optimism, that's the key. Nishikawa hopes that the positive trend will continue but this will highly depend on key factors that are beyond HANMI's control.

Nishikawa cited the importance of meeting the demands of the industry and one of that is the availability of rooms to accommodate all potential clients.

He disclosed that hotels in the CNMI incurred a shortfall of about 500 rooms in December due to the significant influx of tourists, mostly from China.

With the recent acquisition of Palms Resort Saipan and Coral Ocean

Point Resort Club by the Korean conglomerate E-Land, Nishikawa is optimistic that this will help address the CNMI's hotel room shortage.

HANMI is a 12-member organization that includes Marianas Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Century Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower, and Saipan Oceanview Hotel.

In January this year, CNMI hotels sold over 67,000 of the more than 74,000 available rooms. That compares well to the 63,000 rooms that were sold in January 2012.

This uptick in hotel occupancy, Nishikawa said, will highly depend now on the sustainability plan of the CNMI to keep or increase these arrivals.

Nishikawa pointed out the need to build additional hotels, development of new sites and activities for tour-

ists, keeping the environment clean, and most importantly securing the safety and security of tourists.

Additionally, hotels are faced with challenges brought by federal immigration issues that now threaten the loss of nonresident workers. Coupled with concerns on increased utility costs, taxes, and minimum wage issues, these further add to the challenges of the local hotel industry.

### Tourism mix

Since the middle of last year, the number of Chinese tourists on island has been steadily rising. Nishikawa attributes this success to the additional charter flights from China such as from the Beijing and Shanghai routes and the use of bigger aircrafts.

Coupled with Japanese tourists, which Nishikawa says remains the islands' biggest market, and the surge in Korean tourists, that gives the CNMI a "good mixture" of its three

main markets—Japan, China, and Korea—all spelling potential success for the rebounding industry.

The Inos administration also welcomes the surge being felt across most tourism markets of the Commonwealth.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that the increasing number of Chinese tourists, along with the Russia market, "is certainly giving our economy the help it needs during these difficult times. Although, the Japan market has traditionally been the No. 1 source for our industry, we do recognize that they have been tackling their share of challenges over the past years. Still, Gov. [Eloy] Inos continues to work with the [Marianas Visitors Authority] to maintain a strong presence in the Japan market."

### Administration concern

Demapan said the Inos administra-

tion is very much aware of the need to boost the number of available rooms in the Commonwealth. He said this needs to be addressed in order to see the continued travel of tourists to the islands.

"Gov. Inos is keeping a close look at the emerging need for more rooms for our visitors. With the increase of arrivals stemming largely from the additional charter services from China, the administration is concerned that travel partners will have to turn away valued customers because of the lack of rooms," he said.

The CNMI, Nishikawa said, must also improve the destination's infrastructure so it can compete with other markets.

Demapan said, the administration will continue pushing the initiatives by the Tourism Task Force to undertake efforts to beautify the island and to implement safety measures at all popular tourist sites.

## CRISOSTOMO

From Page 1

Based on Crisostomo's extensive rap sheet, Camacho said the new sentence will run consecutively with the five-year sentence Crisostomo is serving in a previous criminal conviction—for a grand total of 10 years and six months.

Camacho said no credit for time served will be given as Crisostomo is already serving time in the previous criminal case.

The judge read all charges on a list containing 14 criminal cases in

which Crisostomo was arrested but the cases were not forwarded for prosecution. Camacho also read the charges in 11 prior criminal cases where the defendant was arrested and prosecuted.

"At this stage, we do not even need to list your extensive juvenile record," Camacho said.

In every criminal case, Crisostomo's cases were either dismissed or plea bargained in exchange for some form of leniency.

"Every case except one," said Camacho, citing a 2007 burglary and theft case that was transferred to him last year. Camacho imposed in that case the

full maximum of five years of the suspended sentence.

Given Crisostomo's extensive criminal history, Camacho said it is obvious that the defendant is not the type who learns from his mistakes.

"You have demonstrated from your life of crime that leniency and mercy from the past courts were viewed as signs of weaknesses," Camacho said.

Assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField had recommended the full maximum sentence. Hartig recommended a sentence of five years, of which only two will be served.

"Defendant has a long history of criminal violations here in the Com-

monwealth. And we are truly, truly pleased to finally have justice served," McField told reporters after the sentencing.

In the bench trial on Wednesday, Camacho found Crisostomo guilty of illegal possession of a controlled substance and criminal contempt.

Police and court records show that two police officers came upon Crisostomo and John Namauleg inside a car during routine patrol at a secluded beach in Supe on Jan. 11, 2012, at 3am.

The officers found on Crisostomo and inside the car drug paraphernalia containing residue that came up positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

## EXTRADITION

From Page 1

Inos asked Branstad's help in apprehending and returning Buckingham—whom he described as "a fugitive from justice who has been charged with the commission of multiple crimes"—to the CNMI.

The governor said he has reason to believe that Buckingham has taken refuge in Johnson County in the State of Iowa.

Lawmakers who have long been asking former governor Benigno R. Fitial to sign the extradition request said that Inos did the "right thing" on the CNMI's behalf.

Some of them said this will remind government officials, even if they are the top law enforcement official of the Commonwealth, that "no one is above the law."

Buckingham is the first former CNMI attorney general to be the subject of an extradition request.

### lawyer

Inos said that Buckingham's counsel, Brien Sers Nicholas, asked him yesterday to hold the extradition request in abeyance and allow Buckingham to return to the CNMI on his proposed timetable of March 18.

But Inos cited three reasons for deciding "not to agree" to the request.

"First, the charges against Buckingham are serious and include felonies," Inos said.

The governor also said Buckingham has had ample time to work with Special Prosecutor George Hasselback on his return, "but has chosen not to."

"This last-minute appeal is inappropriate," Inos said.

The governor's third reason is that he has already transmitted the extradition request to the special prosecutor for implementation and he has requested a status conference with Associate Judge David Wiseman to discuss this issue.

Inos said this matter is now in the hands of the court and the special prosecutor. Hasselback is OPA's counsel and was assigned to be the special

prosecutor in the criminal case against Buckingham.

"Mr. Buckingham should raise his issues with the court, not the governor," Inos said in a statement.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), main author of a joint resolution that the House adopted on Tuesday asking Inos and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas to have Buckingham extradited, applauded Inos "for his action and the expeditious manner in which he acted."

"This somewhat proves that this administration is moving in the right direction," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

### 'Different issues'

Inos signed off on the extradition request on the same day Buckingham, through his attorney, posted a \$50,000 bail on Wednesday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview yesterday, said the review of the proposed extradition was completed late Wednesday afternoon and the governor signed off on the letter that day as well.

"The posting of bail is a different issue. That's a matter the Executive Branch has no jurisdiction over. However, what we did learn also is that there's no order yet from the judge on the bail that was posted. We want to clarify that the governor's approval of the extradition request is a totally different issue from the posting of bail," he told reporters.

Demapan said there has already been communication between the CNMI and Iowa State governments. Besides Hasselback, also working on the matter is Jim Stump, from the CNMI's Office of the Attorney General, he said.

### 'Doing the right thing'

Inos signed the letter before 5pm Wednesday and that letter was forwarded to Hasselback yesterday.

Inos signature comes some six months since Buckingham and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta Air Lines flight for Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), main author of two resolutions impeaching former governor

Benigno R. Fitial, said yesterday he was "optimistic" that the new governor "was going to do the right thing."

"I'm glad he did," Deleon Guerrero added.

Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), who has long supported Buckingham's extradition, said Inos' decision to sign off on the request is "great news."

"I believe it has taken so long to do that. I'm glad that this [new] governor now feels that it is necessary because justice needs to be addressed and that this is a message to our people out in the public that no one is above the law. Even the highest law enforcer on the land needs to follow the law," he said.

Now that Fitial has resigned, Reyes believes that Buckingham may also want to shed light on a host of issues he left behind.

"I certainly hope that Buckingham will come back and clarify what everyone is thinking here. We have our own idea in effect. We need for him to address this. I hope he clears himself but if not, he needs to face the music and understand that he's not above the law," Reyes said.

### Request from Buckingham's

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## SEVEN MONTHS AFTER USDOE FILING

## Application for waiver on MOE rule still not approved

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Board of Education disclosed that the Commonwealth's waiver application with the U.S. Department of Education regarding the maintenance-of-effort requirement remains unapproved and has been pending for seven months now.

In light of this, board members recommended to Gov. Eloy S. Inos to allow the Public School System to participate in the process to get the desired document approved by the federal agency.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero made the recommendation in his letter to the gover-

nor on Tuesday, saying that the central government owes PSS \$3.846 million in unremitted MOE funds.

USDOE awarded the CNMI \$44 million in 2009 under the state fiscal stabilization fund. Of this amount, \$32.4 million was given to PSS, with the requirement that PSS must be allocated a specific percentage of the overall budget of the CNMI government. This requirement was not met.

Based on the board's analysis of the maintenance-of-effort rule, Guerrero said the central government still owes the school system some \$3.846 million—as shown in both PSS and CNMI audit reports.

"We have received a copy of

the CNMI's application for a waiver of the [maintenance-of-effort] for fiscal year 2010. We have noted the general fund deductions for bond interest in the amount of \$7,697,354, transfers out in the amount of \$3,004,174, and federal contributions of \$4,006,914. Total transfer outs amount to \$14,708,442. When we prepared the calculations for the MOE waiver for [fiscal years] 2006, 2008, and 2009, we only subtracted out the federal grant contributions," stated Guerrero.

This new method changes the calculation of funds owed the system, he added.

"What does not change is that the CNMI still owes PSS \$3,846,402 as is shown in our

audit report and in the CNMI audit report," said Guerrero.

Based on the August 2012 waiver application with the USDOE, the CNMI government's revenue in fiscal year 2010 totaled \$134,956,280. Of that amount, PSS only received \$41,759,596 that same year—not enough to meet the maintenance-of-effort rule, hence the need to apply for a waiver of this requirement with USDOE.

Guerrero recommended to the governor to develop a payment plan to pay this debt, in addition to paying the full amount of PSS allotments for fiscal year 2013, which he said is behind by \$1.5 million.

Guerrero also asked the governor to allow PSS federal pro-

grams officer Tim Thornburgh to help the CNMI federal grant coordinator finalize the maintenance-of-effort application, which was submitted seven months ago and remains unapproved.

"Work together with us to finalize the FY 2011 application for a waiver of MOE after approval of the FY 2010 waiver," said Guerrero.

According to him, failure to meet the maintenance-of-effort rule will result in the CNMI having to return \$44 million to USDOE and the federal government refusing to honor any CNMI government request to draw federal funds until this \$44 million debt is repaid.

"As you will recall, there was a hold put on CNMI federal grant draws in [fiscal year] 2011 until a \$40,000 debt was paid by the CNMI. We do not want to replay that scene again," added

Guerrero.

In October last year, U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) disclosed that the CNMI government's waiver application for MOE had been found insufficient and inconsistent with federal standards.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 13th birthday greetings go out to Floria Bree, who is celebrating her special day on March 2! Greetings come from your bro' Austin and baby sister Diah A'ina Q. Maratita. We love you forever!

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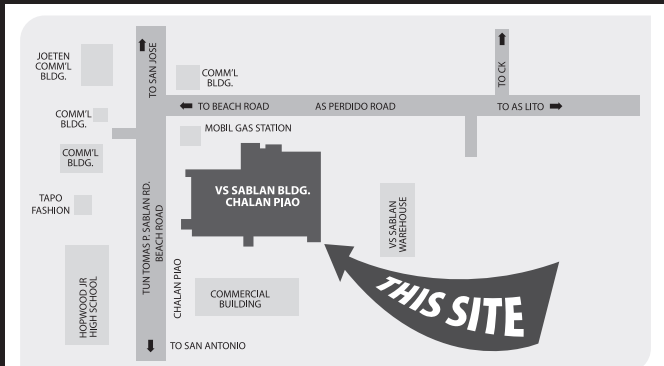
Offer open for limited time while supply of McDonald's 6pc, Chicken McNuggets coupons and Mobil \$1 fuel discount coupons last. McDonald's 6pc, Chicken McNuggets coupon redeemable only with Mobil fuel receipt attached at any participating McDonald's from March 1 until May 23, 2013. Each customer is limited to one redemption of 6pc, Chicken McNuggets per visit. Chicken McNuggets are served after 10:30 AM. Not valid with any other McDonald's offer. Mobil \$1 discount coupon is redeemable from March 1 until May 23, 2013 with fuel purchase of \$15. Fleet Card and non-fuel purchases are not eligible for this promotion. You must be a Smiles member to participate and qualify in the lucky draw. To enter the lucky draw, no purchase necessary. See terms and conditions at participating Mobil stations or call toll-free hotline for details.



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# Registration begins for Flame Tree Arts Fest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Registration begins today for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, which will take place from April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

Parker Y. Yobei, overall festival committee chair, is inviting all local artists and vendors to sign up for one of the limited number of booths.

Yobei noted that only 10 consumable or food booths and 70 artist booths will be accommodated.

This year's registration fees are as follows: Arts Council-registered artists, \$50; new or non-registered artists, \$150; private commercial vendors (consumables), \$800, which is inclusive of \$100 refundable

trash deposit; non-profit organizations, \$350, with additional \$100 for those with consumables; and information booths, \$250.

"Our registration fees remain the same as last year," said Yobei.

Logistics and Enforcement Committee chair Darrell Moteisou emphasized that new artists who want to have a booth at the festival will have to be screened to ensure that the artwork are all made on island.

"While there are materials that are imported for use in the artwork, we want the final product made in the CNMI. The purpose of the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival has always been to promote local artists and their locally grown and handcrafted products that make our Com-

monwealth proud," he said.

Moteisou warned that booths that do not comply with this regulation will be shut down and banned from future participation in the festival.

Bureau of Environmental Health program manager Lily Kapileo-Igisaia is reminding food vendors that they are required to secure a Sanitary Health Permit and a Food Handler Certificate or FHC before they can sell consumables at the event. The FHC costs \$20.

Igisaia said that those who do not have a valid FHC are required to go to any private clinic for a Food Handler physical examination then attend the Food, Hygiene and Sanitation Workshop.

She said BEH is offering free workshops on a first-come, first-

served basis, which can accommodate up to 35 individuals per session. These workshops are held from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 8am to 10am, on Navy Hill across the baseball field.

"I encourage vendors who are interested in selling food items at the festival to go through the process of obtaining a FHC as soon as possible for it takes three weeks before the actual certificate is issued," said Igisaia.

For more information about the BEH permits and workshops, call 664-4870 or 72.

Yobei urged vendors and artists to fill out the registration forms available at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture next to the post office on Capital Hill.

To register or for more information, call 322-9982 or 83.

## PDM Promoters' cleanup nets 1.5K lbs of trash

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The non-profit group PDM Promoters, Inc. almost missed its monthly cleanup, managing to do it on the last day of February.

Representative Sonia Siwa said yesterday that they usually hold the cleanup on the first Saturday of the month. In February, however, PDM Promoters, Inc. volunteers were busy with work because of the increase in tourism arrivals in the last few months.

Most of the adult volunteers of the group are staffers of Kinpachi Restaurant, and Siwa said 10 of them took part in Thursday's cleanup.

"We wanted to make sure that we do a cleanup for February, so we scheduled it on the last day of the month. Because it's a weekday, the Saipan Awaodori dancers were unable to join



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc. smile for the camera after their monthly Garapan cleanup yesterday. The group collected a total of 1,520 lbs of trash.

us since they're all in school," Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*.

A total of 1,520 lbs of trash—mostly cigarette butts, empty cans, Styrofoam containers, and beer bottles—were collected

from yesterday's activity. Siwa attributed the increased amount to the huge gap since they last did a cleanup on Jan. 12.

PDM Promoters, Inc. appeals to business establish-

ments along Paseo de Marianas to provide trash bins for their customers.

Siwa noted that during their cleanup, the drinking fountains along Paseo de Marianas were teeming with trash from customers who purchased food or drinks from stores in the area.

Since the business establishments don't provide outdoor garbage receptacles for customers, their trash are placed on the drinking fountains. Siwa said the trash get scattered around when it's windy, becoming eyesores.

"I hope these businesses take the initiative to be responsible for their own trash. It's also for their own benefit because if the establishment has a clean exterior and surroundings, it can attract more customers," she said.

Siwa added that they expect to have their young volunteers join them once again in this month's cleanup.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 1, 2004

### Managaha voted No. 1 snorkeling site

As underwater cameraman on Managaha for almost five years, 31-year-old Kenneth Lacastesantos has had the privilege of having close encounters with the island's marine beauty that has captured the attention of divers and travelers mostly from Japan. Lacastesantos, a dive master, especially enjoys the scene of beautiful corals and schools of fish such as the blue-and-white sayuri and the butterfly fish that is striking in combinations of yellow, white and black. "Even if you just swim or snorkel, fish will swim toward you," he said. It is no wonder then that Managaha Island has been voted as the best place for snorkeling for 2004 at the 21st Century Dive & Travel Awards, according to a recent announcement by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

### Montgomery losing one lawyer after the other

Bert Douglas Montgomery—the businessman who is now appealing his wire fraud and money laundering conviction as a pauper litigant—has been losing one lawyer after another. After the withdrawal of Bruce Berline as lawyer for Montgomery, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Alex R. Munson had appointed Mark S. Smith to be the defendant's counsel. Smith, however, also withdrew, prompting the court to appoint lawyer James E. Hollman instead. Hollman, however, made a similar withdrawal request, prompting Munson to appoint G. Anthony Long to represent the appellant.

Mar. 1, 2005

### NMI gets over \$5M for Compact Impact

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive a grant in the amount of \$5,171,914 from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to reimburse the islands for the social costs of migration from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands. "These funds will help the CNMI to offset the costs that it has incurred to provide health care, education and other social services to those who are permitted to migrate to the CNMI under the Compacts of Free Association," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen. "The funds can be used for most public services that have been impacted by the need to serve migrants, and can be used for infrastructure as well," he added.

### Villagomez: House to pass Agingan bill

Despite the delay, the House leadership will continue to press for the passage of a bill that reprograms \$3.3 million for the construction of Agingan wastewater treatment facility. The reprogramming bill was supposed to have been enacted before Feb. 28 to save the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from paying the \$37,500 penalty per violation that was imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against it. "The bill has been filed and deferred but we hope to act on it in our next session," said Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez yesterday, adding that the House may hold a session within the week.

Mar. 1, 2006

### House wants LB to hold on to assets

The House of Representatives passed a measure yesterday that would ensure that office equipment and supplies belonging to the Legislature remained with the Legislature. The House adopted the recommendation of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to pass House Bill 15-20. The measure would prevent outgoing legislators from distributing their office equipment and supplies to other government entities at the end of their terms. The proposed legislation would require the Legislative Bureau to maintain an inventory of all fixed assets and capital goods purchased by either house of the Legislature and to account for the custody and disposition of those items.

### 'Chamolinian Village in desperate need of money'

The Chamolinian Village, a cultural village located in the heart of the Garapan area, is in danger of closing down in April if it doesn't get the funding needed to continue operating. According to Indigenous Affairs Office executive director Gonzalo Q. Santos, the cultural village, which is being run with private firm Pacific Development, Inc., is in "desperate need" of financial help from the Legislature and the local government. During his confirmation hearing last week, Santos said that PDI has been helping them financially but, unless the government steps in, the program would come to an end by April this year. PDI has been involved with the Chamolinian Village for several years now.

## Let tobacco be what you give up this Lent season.

*"They saved my life and they can do the same for you."*

— Bob Scruggs, Tobacco Free since 2008

Classes start on March 4<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Meet every Monday from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm



For more information call the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at 323-QUIT (7848) or 236-8728.



Joseph Kevin Pangelinan Villagomez (center) is welcomed as newly appointed Family Court Manager by Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Commonwealth Recorder Luise S. Deleon Guerrero, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Judicial Assistant Rose Lynette M. Camacho, Deputy Clerk II Roxanne M. Weaver, Accountant II Evelyn P. Calvo, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, Judicial Assistant Rebecca R. Santos, Deputy Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho, and Chief Probation Officer Ursula I. Lifofoi-Aldan.

## Ex-DPH chief Villagomez named Family Court Manager

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has appointed Joseph Kevin Pangelinan Villagomez to the position of Family Court Manager for the Commonwealth Superior Court effective Feb. 26, 2013.

The Family Court Division is responsible for the processing and management of the family court docket, assisting the designated family court judges, administering services affecting self-represented and/or indigent litigants, and collaborating interagency efforts with network partners within and outside the CNMI.

Villagomez graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Tumon, Guam, in 1977 and earned his bachelor's in Psychology from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington in 1982. He subsequently earned his master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire in 1996.

Villagomez also completed the Executive Education Program titled "Managing Health Programs in Developing Countries" conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts in 1996 and the Robert Wood Johnson State Health Leadership Initiative Program conducted by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2008.

With his progressive experience in preventive health, mental health, and substance abuse services, Villagomez's tenure in

numerous leadership positions also availed him of partnership roles in the criminal justice system and related community and social service networks.

Villagomez's employment history began with the CNMI Department of Public Health in March 1992 where he served as an associate clinical psychologist until August 1996. He then served as the director of the Division of Mental Health & Social Services from August 1996 to January 1998. In January 1998, he was appointed as the Secretary of Public Health where he oversaw healthcare policies for the entire CNMI until January 2002. From January 2002 to January 2006, he served the CNMI Community Guidance Center as a substance abuse professional/counseling psychologist. From January 2006 to October 2011, Villagomez once again served as Public Health secretary, completing this tenure at the department's transition into a corporation.

After appointing Villagomez, Naraja stated: "The CNMI Judiciary is proud to welcome Joseph Villagomez into its trial court management team and looks forward to his continued commitment to public service in the areas of family and the law."

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, a designated family court jurist, also welcomed the appointment: "I am very happy with the appointment of Joseph Villagomez to this critical position. His expertise will complement the family court and other trial court service areas." (NMI Judiciary)



### CONGRATULATION!

Congratulations to Felipe Evan Asopii Litulumar, who participated in the first ever early graduation at Kagman High School on Feb. 27. We are so proud of you and wish you the best of luck on the next stage of your life. With love, from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# 2 Day March Madness sale

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013  
FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013  
FROM 8 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

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## 15% OFF

Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Generator, Pressure Washer, Bed Sets & Mattress/foundations



## 10% off Chain Saws



Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumber, Building Materials, Water pump, Water Heater and etc.)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Lipstick on a zombie

In “Juan of the Dead,” an enterprising but admittedly lazy Cuban and his small band of friends face a Havana full of zombies (the regime claims they are dissidents but Juan knows better) by starting a zombie-disposal service. At one point in the comedic, award-winning Spanish film made in Cuba, Juan answers the phone and a plea to get rid of “the old man” with a subtle line: “Companero, you’ll have to handle that family matter yourself.”

After 54 years of the Castro brothers’ communist dictatorship, a new generation of Cubans want to take charge of their destiny, to rid themselves of the zombies who blindly follow the Castros.

On Sunday, Raul Castro seemed to toss them a lifeline—the 81-year-old successor to his ailing brother Fidel says he’s leaving Cuba’s presidency in five years and that the communist island’s constitution will soon include term limits for future leaders.

Castro tapped Miguel Diaz-Canel, a 52-year-old engineer, now seen as his potential successor, for first vice president.

He also shook up the rubber-stamp National Assembly by promoting 69-year-old Esteban Lazo Hernandez, Cuba’s highest ranking black official, to replace Ricardo Alarcon, 75, who served for two decades as assembly president.

No doubt, Raul Castro expects the international community to see these changes as the Great Awakening for Cuba’s leadership gerontocracy, a “historic transcendence”

for a new generation to take the mantle and for Afro Cubans to finally bust the iron ceiling that has kept black Cubans from key positions.

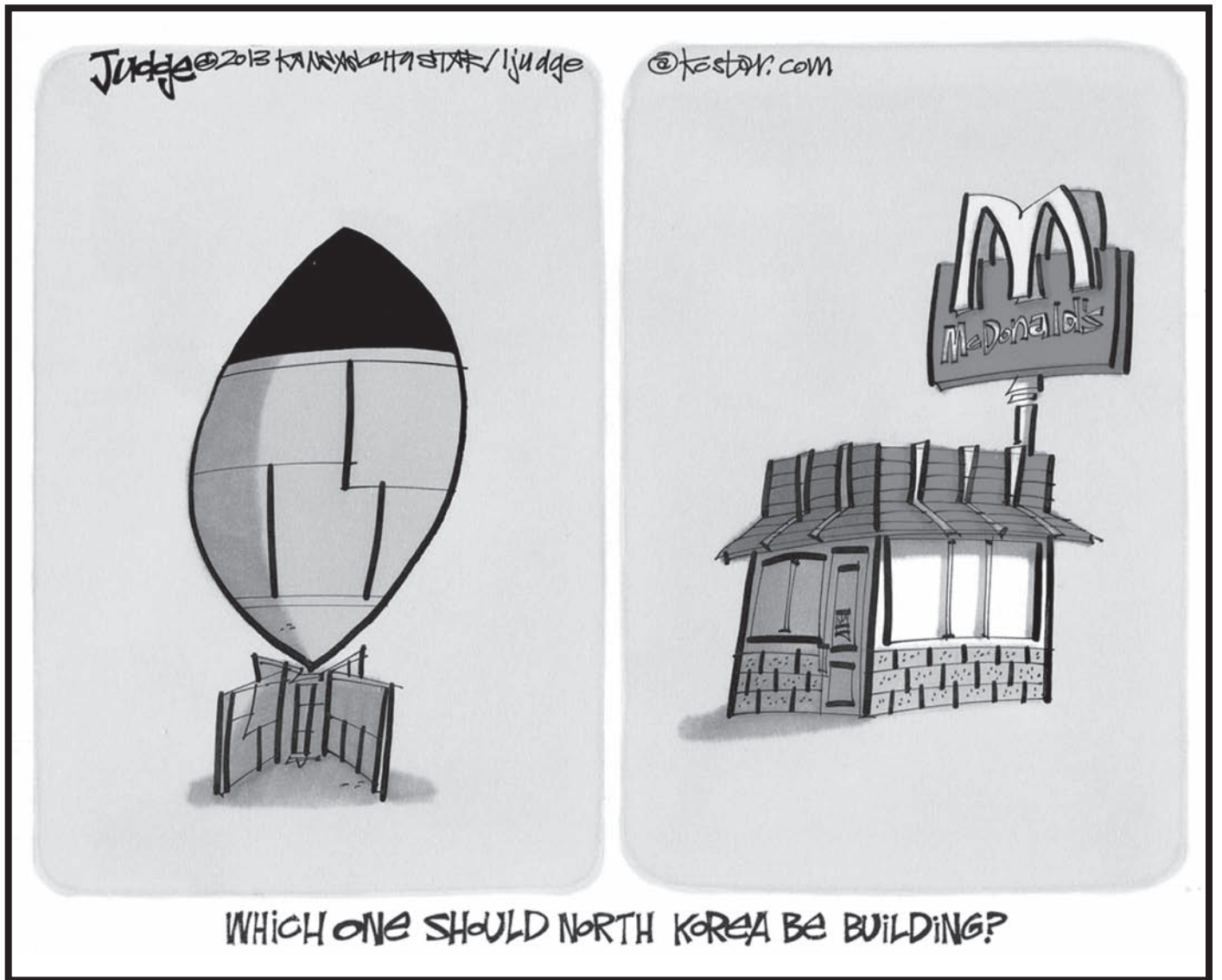
If only that were so. This is nothing more than lipstick on a zombie.

The dictatorship may get a new face but no one elevated by Fidel or Raul Castro can be considered a Cuban leader in the image of, say, the former Soviet Union’s reformer, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Indeed, Diaz-Canel is not the first “young” leader to be seen as a potential heir to lead the one-party state. Remember former Foreign Ministers Roberto Robaina and Felipe Perez Roque? Or former Vice President Carlos Lage? All have disappeared from public view, ousted by the Castro brothers when they became too big for their political bitches.

As for U.S. policy toward Cuba, there’s nothing in Sunday’s proclamations from Havana that would warrant a thawing of re-

See LIPSTICK on Next Page



## Uncommon health tips

Here are a few things you might not know regarding your health.

We have all seen commercials for air-fresheners and various little things you can stick on the wall or on a table to make your place smell nice.

Do not use them. The nice odors they give off are toxic and, over time, can negatively impact your health. That is because they contain formaldehyde, petroleum distillates, aerosol propellants, and p-dichlorobenzene. This is especially true of car air-fresheners. If you have one in your car, get rid of it.

Some of the medical conditions associated with air fresheners are respiratory problems, amnesia, skin lesions, and cancer.

If you want your place to smell nice, an easy way is to buy essential oil (there are dozens of different scents available on the Internet) and put a drop on a light bulb. It is also a good idea to open all of your windows, to get some fresh air in. Usually, the air in one’s house is more toxic than the air outside.

A little-known antidote for these toxic vapors, cigarette smoke, and other airborne pollutants is something called MCP, or Modified Citrus Pectin.

MCP consists of beige dietary fiber granules that comes in a plastic jar. You put a small scoop of MPC into a blender or shaker with 6-8 ounces of water. Once it is completely dissolved, drink it.

All forms of pectin, whether it is MCP or apple pectin, have the ability to bind to heavy metals and to carry them out of the body. This is especially good for smokers, because tobacco smoke is full of toxins, such as cadmium, and drinking a glass of water with MCP will help to reduce your toxic load.

When the Chernobyl disaster occurred in Ukraine some years ago, doctors used apple pectin to treat those who were exposed to high amounts of radiation. It helped reduce the load of radioactive cesium-137 in children by 62 percent.

MCP and apple pectin may not be available in the CNMI but it is available on the Internet. It is well worth having in your cupboard, particularly since the nuclear reactors at Fukushima continue to spew radioactive particles, and we are not all that far from there.

A few weeks ago I wrote about alcohol but I didn’t write about the dietary supplements that can help mitigate the effects caused by heavy drinking. In the CNMI we have a lot of heavy drinkers, so this information may be useful to them.

If you know you are going out for a night of partying or drinking, it is a good idea, before the evening begins, to load up on some vitamins. Here is the short list: Vitamin C, 2,000mg; Vitamin B-100 complex; Vitamin B-1, 500mg; Milk Thistle, 500mg; and magnesium, 500mg.

Glutathione is another excellent nutrient, because it helps to pro-

By RUSS MASON, M.S.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, *Alternative & Complementary Therapies*. His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.



tect the liver from damage. A dose of 3,000mg per day is a wonderful safeguard, and it also helps to control alcoholic cravings—which many alcoholics experience. Glutathione is stored in the liver, and greatly assists detoxification.

### Why it is essential to take supplements

Most people in the CNMI do not eat healthy food. They eat junk. I can’t tell you how many times I have been in line at Payless supermarket, standing behind a person who has two sodas and two bags of flavored crunchy snacks for lunch. Yes, they may taste good, but it’s all junk. Same with all forms of ramen, which are loaded with salt, MSG, and wax.

Supplements are a good idea because if people eat junk for lunch then they are simply not getting enough nutrition, and their chances of getting diabetes or cancer have increased. I’m not making this up. Ask your doctor which foods are best to eat for you and your kids.

I buy supplements online from two sites. One is swansonvitamins.com and the other is beyond-a-century.com Of the two, Swanson has better prices and has all of the supplements I mentioned above. They carry MCP, but you can find it cheaper on eBay.

I have mentioned this before, but it’s worth repeating. Most foods people eat are high in acidic content. Snacks, colas, meats—including processed meats and anything with sugar—will contribute to an acidic condition. This is not healthy, and you may also develop heartburn (acid reflux disease).

Fresh fruits and vegetables are alkaline, and this is desirable. But not everybody eats their vegetables, such as broccoli or cabbage.

An inexpensive and effective way to rebalance the acid/alkaline ratio in your body is to take a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda in 8 ounces of water, twice a day. You know what I’m talking about—Arm & Hammer in an orange-yellow box. Or you can save a few pennies by buying the Western Family brand. It’s the same stuff, and it’s good for you.

This reminds me. I have seen a lot of drug commercials for acid

See UNCOMMON on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**‘M’ is for Messier**

Always like a success story with an interesting twist, and so much the better if it combines old school with modern times. And thus we make the acquaintance of Charles Messier, a Frenchman who wrote his legacy on the very heavens above. It's great timing: Those heavens get a lot of attention this time of year. As springtime approaches many exotic galaxies are climbing into their most viewable positions. These galaxies are often named with an "M" for "Messier." When astronomers talk about M31, M94, and so on, they're referring to galaxies from Messier's catalog of 110 celestial objects, such objects to include not only galaxies but other intriguing stuff like nebulae and star clusters.

Even in today's high tech age, when telescopes are whizzing around on satellites, the Messier catalog, the first version of which was published over 240 years ago, is still a player.

So let's hear it for old school!

The great twist in the story is that Messier's fame isn't rooted in what he wanted to find but rather in what he didn't want to find.

After all, Charles Messier (1730-1817) was mostly a comet hunter. But his efforts to discover comets were often stymied by finding "false positives" of other celestial objects. He eventually started compiling a list of these non-comet objects so he could keep track of them and not be distracted by them.

So Messier's catalog started out as a cosmic "do not call" list from a comet hunter. Messier did find his share of comets, of course, so everything's cool on that count, just in case you were wondering.

As the years went by and his catalog grew, it's possible that he

kept finding new stuff for it for its own sake, not merely as a comet-distraction list. But either way, well, there it is.

You might wonder if any normal person can see any of the stuff I'm blabbering about. Well, sure; that's the whole point. Much of the stuff can be seen with mere binoculars, and some can even be seen with the bare eyeball. The Web has this stuff listed all over the place and books are devoted to it as well.

Let's go raw eyeball here for a couple of examples.

"Messier 45," or M45 for short, is the Pleiades, a sparkling little group of stars. This group is easily seen with just a casual glance, though, of course, aiming binoculars or telescopes at the thing will reveal ever more stars.

The Japanese call this group "Subaru." Yes, that's right, just like the car.

Take a look at a Subaru logo and you'll notice it depicts an array of stars. Those are the Pleiades, Messier 45. The stars are essentially a family formed from the same bunch of gas. But as they age they will eventually drift apart and float away into the cold, harsh universe.

Here's some more night sky awesomeness available to the bare eyeball: Messier 42, otherwise known as the Orion Nebula. I'll note that the Chinese phrase "three stars" refers to the three stars of Orion's belt, and that's just the place to start.

Hanging down from this belt is a line of dimmer stars. I count three of them, but I don't know if there is an official tally. Anyway, these depict Orion's sword. The middle part of this line has a fuzzy haze. That haze is the Orion Nebula, which is an array of lively cosmic gas that is a star factory. M42 is one of the most famous, and most photographed, areas of the sky.

It's amazing that your mere eyeball can see this space cloud from about 9 quadrillion miles away. It took that light 1,500 years to

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com).  
His column runs every Friday.



make the journey to Earth from M42. These distances are, of course, ball park, since nobody has actually driven the route and noted the odometer settings.

If you want to find the Pleiades or Orion, a few minutes on the Web should do the trick. Both are in Saipan's skies right now. Better yet, and a whole lot more fun on Saipan, find a boat captain and ask; these salts are usually quite knowledgeable about celestial signposts.

One of my pals has observed, and photographed, all 110 of the Messier objects. That's a fairly common project for dedicated amateur astronomers. And this is the time of year when some astronomy clubs hold "Messier marathons," as members race to see who can espy the most Messier objects in the least amount of time. All the foregoing is too hardcore for me, though. I'm just a slob in a beach chair and the only thing I'm racing to is my bag of potato chips.

There are, of course, more recent catalogs of celestial objects, but Messier's is still a bedrock reference and a staple of terminology.

So the next time you're eyeballing the night skies from your beachside barbecue, hoist a toast to the M-man himself. The guy was hunting comets, but he landed far bigger game.

**Trouble ahead: A shrinking budget plus federal cuts**

Findings that the CNMI's fiscal resources has contracted from \$130 million last year to \$114 million this year coupled by likely cuts in federal grants would be a double whammy for the CNMI.

The CNMI has consistently seen its resources gone deep south from \$256 million in recent past down to \$114 million.

Take 80 percent of the \$114 million for payroll and it leaves some \$22.8 million for "all others"—mostly for public services from healthcare to education. There's hardly any room to accommodate legislative pet projects, does it?

Under such dire fiscal scenario, doesn't CHC need at least \$30 million to defray operations cost? Aren't the needs of PSS piling by the day? The answer is obvious and need not require a rocket scientist's review.

The greater question is: What then must leadership do so spending is confined within its means?

Obviously, there's the dire need to buckle down to recalibrating spending habits, including the critical review of arcane and regressive policies that have strapped and stifled economic growth CNMI-wide. And, believe it or not, we can't even take a five-minute break to intend, "I look down so long I thought it was up."

In brief, let's work with a sense of humility and mindfulness to deliver the best that we can amidst mind-numbing fiscal ruin and economic disaster.

■ ■ ■

**On ensuing QC debate**

Interesting how Dr. John Joyner may have inadvertently bumped into a beehive on the ensuing discussion on qualifying certificates. No intention to diminish his doctoral level viewpoint—shallow as they may be—but there's a need for real clarity on this case.

The greater query for Dr. Joyner is simple: What major policy decision did he help emplace that would have lifted subterranean poverty and misery from the multitude? Or weren't you a willing second-fiddle player in the cataclysmic "no-growth" policy of Fi-

tial's statist regime? Is the worsening depravity leading back to your former boss the sterling achievement left behind for posterity?

I'm in agreement with my friend Frank Agulto's assertion: "Scores of scholars around the world in contemporary times, including classical thinkers of economics, only produced more contradictions than a one-size-fit-all explanation." How true, otherwise the work of a single scholar would have resolved the constant shifts in global economic dynamics. It didn't and how true, too, that it raises more questions than there are answers.

Reason? Theories advanced by the most renowned in Keynesian discipline have simply missed what the more fully rounded global economists call the "emotional quotient." It deals with people who are directly affected quizzing how certain policies would enhance or destroy their livelihood. In the case of the QC improving the lot of the indigenous people, it's all hogwash, thus the need to repeal it in its entirety.

Moreover, Joyner (whose former boss gave QC's to his "cherry-picked" few) ought to have researched how this policy has impacted the livelihood of the indigenous people. Read carefully now, Dr. J: None! Too, nearly all states in the union have repealed QC's for it is regressive in all its unintended consequences, exacting the complete opposite—revenue degeneration.

Look closer at what your former boss did in granting Kumho some royal favors. It included his cancellation of appraisal fees to the tune of \$30K that should have accrued to DPL from the lease of indigenous land in Laulau by Kumho.

Next, he worked the clock to ensure that Kumho gets some \$26-plus million in tax free QC for 25 years. Subsequently, Kumho sold the Laulau Bay golf resort to another investor. Question: What benefits accrued to meet at least the partial interest and needs of the indigenous people and public landowners? Isn't it true that medical referral patients can't get to off-island hospitals due to lack of funds in local coffers? QC taxes would have helped indigenous patients, true?

This is one of the major reasons I resigned intuitively after four years, a decision prompted by my sensing that Fitial was prepared to

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



shred the intent of constitutional provisions that protect the interest of indigenous people in the disposition of their public land.

The irony is in his spouting "protection" under Article 12 while he quietly derails benefits for indigenous public landowners. It's called political exploitation, sacrificing what's rightfully due the indigenous people for unearned accolades from cherry-picked investor friends. Indeed, a sly character that now embraces lifetime humiliation as a legacy of his impeachment and subsequent resignation. This is about the only thing future generations will remember of him.

Why must we embrace a policy that encourages non-investment from the outset? Is this the reason for the misguided lecture from Dr. Joyner on why the QC must be kept? So investment in the NMI is limited to the whims of political cherry-picking? Would other equally poised investors dare share their wealth when QC privilege is a policy limited to the cherry-picked few? Is this why investments from Japan have petered out as a result of the former governor's policy of insensitivity against investment pioneers from our partners from the Land of the Rising Sun? Ingrates?

In passing, I don't have your illustrious academic credentials but I'm more than happy to share some "common sense" with you and others infected with the "Marianas bug," convinced that you could use bully pulpit tactics to silence the lamb. Nah! We're not ready to brave the cowardly perversion of the truth nor do we subscribe to gradualism in instituting what's just and fair for one and all.

**LIPSTICK**

From Page 10

lations. The Obama administration already has made it easier for Cuban Americans to visit their loved ones in Cuba and send remittances. As the State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell noted on Monday, the United States remains "hopeful for the day that the

Cuban people get democracy, when they can have the opportunity to freely pick their own leaders. We're clearly not there yet."

Certainly the Helms-Burton law that maintains the U.S. embargo requires more than a promise of some elusive change five years from now when the dictatorship will be 59 years old.

Diaz-Canel, a former higher education minister and ex-head of the Communist Party in Villa Clara and Holguin provinces, has been traveling with Raul Castro on key missions abroad and leading delegations

on other trips. He is reported to have been in charge of many of Raul Castro's economic changes, such as allowing the sale of homes and lifting travel restrictions for some Cubans. All these are seen as efforts to bolster Cuba's ever-depressed top-down economy, which Raul Castro maintains are ways to "perfect socialism, not destroy it."

Like we said, lipstick on a zombie.

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**UNCOMMON**

From Page 10

reflux disease. These drugs are known in the industry as "proton pump inhibitors." Although they are "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS), they are expensive. Save your money. Use sodium bicarbonate (or, even, better potassium bicarbonate) twice a day and you

won't be bothered with acid reflux disease. But, as the commercial advises, "If chronic symptoms persist, consult your doctor." Good idea. Sodium or potassium bicarbonate is great stuff, but they are not cure-alls. But they absolutely will help to restore alkalinity in your body, and that is worth knowing about.

A final word about potassium bicarbonate. This is wonderful stuff. In addition to giving you a shot of alkalinity, it will also—over time—reduce the size of your gut and also make your face






look leaner. All of this without exercise! It's a little expensive—one pound costs \$15. But you are only taking 2 teaspoons per day, so one pound will last you several months. I get mine from Beyond-a-Century.com.

If you should visit their website, they also have a lot of anti-aging nutrients, and they may be of interest to you also. Maybe I will write about anti-aging nutrition next time. That is one topic that women especially are interested in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

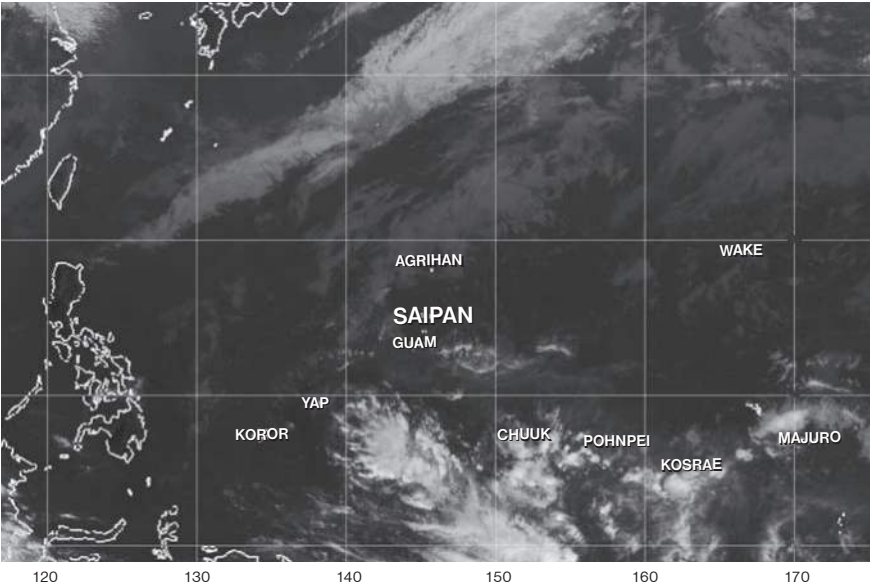
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 43 ▼ 36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 55
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 54
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 31
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 40
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 35
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N180 to 20N160E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and north of the shear line to beyond 25N. A cold front stretches from west of Iwo To island at 25N140E southwestward to beyond 21N130E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 225 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 1N130E to a weak circulation centered near 4N142E to end at EQ152E. Scattered showers are found well south of Guam and south of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line that extends from southeast of Yap at 9N140E to EQ152E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 250 miles of a line from 3N152E to 6N159E to 4N162E to 6N167E to near Majuro at 8N171E then across the dateline at 7N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:29 PM	8:37 AM
Saturday	10:27 PM	9:24 AM
Sunday	11:26 PM	10:14 AM
Monday		11:08 AM
Tuesday	12:26 AM	12:05 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily  <b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)</b> XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	<b>VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN</b> XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM  UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

TOHA SUPERMARKET

March Madness Sale!

7:00AM-11:00 PM (MON-SUN) MARCH 1-13, 2013

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED  
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

Diamond G Rice

Reg. \$13.99

\$13<sup>49</sup>

20lbs

Reg. \$28.99

\$27<sup>99</sup>

50lbs

Chicken Leg Quarter

Reg. \$19.99

\$18<sup>99</sup>

22lbs

Reg. \$26.99

\$25<sup>99</sup>

33lbs

LIMIT 1

Whole Chicken

Reg. \$41.99

\$40<sup>99</sup>

30lbs

Pork Spareribs

Reg. \$22.99

\$21<sup>99</sup>

20lbs

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Reg. \$22.99

\$21<sup>99</sup>

10lbs

Ichiban

\$10<sup>99</sup>

CASE

Gold Flame Butane Gas

Reg. \$24.99

\$24<sup>49</sup>

CASE

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Chorizos

\$15<sup>99</sup>

3 lbs.

Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid

\$7<sup>99</sup>

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50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee

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LIMIT 6

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\$23<sup>99</sup>

White Sugar 2kg

\$2<sup>79</sup>

2 KG.

Fresco Vegetable Oil

\$9<sup>99</sup>

1 GAL.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce

\$4<sup>39</sup>

1.6 L.

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Tilapia

\$1<sup>09</sup>

/LB.

Milk Fish

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/LB.

Sea Wave Calamari

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16oz.

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Potato

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Cabbage

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Garlic

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## Justices kick off 'Judges in the Classroom' program

CNMI students of all grade levels will welcome members of the Judiciary into their classrooms during the months leading up to the annual celebration of Law Week and Law Day from April 25 to May 3, 2013.

These special visits to schools in the community are part of the "Judges in the Classroom" program, an annual community education outreach effort conducted by the Judiciary.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice John A. Manglona began this year's series with students at Marianas High School. Discussions focused on the Law Day 2013 theme, "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

The role of courts in our society, their relationship to the legislative and executive branches of government, and uniform civil rights were among subjects explored by the justices with the students. Grace Christian Academy, Saipan Southern High School and Mount Carmel High School are on the justices and

judges' visit schedules for March and April. Additional activities involving Judiciary facilities and staff this spring include: the High School Mock Trial Competition on March 7 and 8 organized by Heather Kennedy, executive director of the Law Revision Commission; the Junior High School Mock Trial

Competition lead by Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on April 13; the third annual Law Day Poster and Essay Contest awards ceremony on April 25; and the Annual Attorney Generals' Cup Speech Competition on May 3. The public is invited to attend all of these events at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe. (NMI Judiciary)

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## Pale Eric to speak on cultural preservation

Pale Eric Forbes will be the featured speaker at a reception hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret from 6pm to 9pm on Wednesday, March 13.

Pale Eric, a Catholic priest in Guam, is well known for exploring a wide range of topics involving local history, culture and identity. Many on Saipan know him from his time as the San Roque parish priest in the 1990s.

During his upcoming presentation, titled "Cultural Death and Renaissance: What is Dying? What is Reborn?," Pale

Eric will share his insights on how the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures in the Marianas have changed and will continue to change in the face of an increasingly globalized world. Some have referred to this process as the death of a culture. If this is true, what is dying? Who is killing it? Is it death or transformation? What do we want to preserve? Pale Eric will consider these and other intriguing questions associated with cultural preservation in the Marianas during his hour-long talk.

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Forbes

Tickets for the reception are priced at \$25 per person and come with beer, wine, a variety of tasty hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win a set of books on local history. Tickets may be purchased from Council board members and staff or at the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. Contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more information.

All proceeds from the event will be used by the Humanities Council to support programs and educational initiatives. (PR)

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Altima Coupe	BC100556	Black	\$4,000.00	Ranger XL	BPA927	SOLD	Silver
HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	Ranger XL	BPA927	SOLD	Silver
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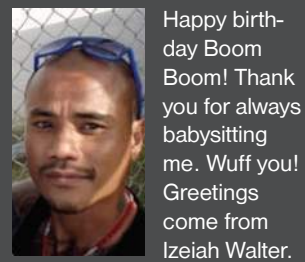
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### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy Sweet 16 to our beautiful Chamorita, Ursula Monica Dela Cruz Lizama! We hope you enjoy your day and may God bless you today, tomorrow, and forever. We love you! Shoutout coming from Dad and Mom, Milton, Jayna, Jeanille, Jiandra, the Dela Cruz, Lizama, Songao, Galvan, and the Naputi familias.



Happy birthday Boom Boom! Thank you for always babysitting me. Wuff you! Greetings come from Izeiah Walter.



Happy 3rd birthday to our beautiful, intelligent girl, Jadine Nicole. May the Lord continue to shine down on you always. We love you very much! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Damon, and the family.



Happy birthday to our kump-aire, Thomas Sablan Muña! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. Enjoy your special day! Greetings coming out from Eugene, Mel, and kids.

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****BankGuam declares Q1 dividends**

BankGuam Holding Co. announced yesterday that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share at the board's regular meeting on Feb. 25, 2013. The dividend will be paid on March 29, 2013, to shareholders of record on March 15, 2013.

"The continuing strength and solid performance of Bank of Guam has allowed us to pay dividends to our shareholders as we have since 1976," explained president and board chair Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. **(BoG)**

**Half-day session for MHS**

Marianas High School will have a half-day session on March 7, 2013, due to the distribution of mid-progress reports, which will be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium from 4pm to 6pm. All students will be released at 1pm.

**Hopwood, WSR to lead PSS Health Walk**

Hopwood Junior High School and WSR Elementary School will participate in the PSS Health Walk event this Saturday, March 2, 2013, starting at 6am. All parents, students, teachers, and staff of both schools are encouraged to come out this Saturday morning for a healthy walk. This month, the two schools are in charge of this activity. Refreshments and water will be served. Participating students will be given bonus points by their teacher in PE and other subject areas as an incentive for their participation with their families. **(PR)**

**McTeacher's Night for Hopwood, OES**

Hopwood Junior High School will be the featured school in McTeacher's Night in March. Hopwood employees are scheduled to perform services every Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting March 5 and 6 to March 26

and 27 from 5pm to 8pm.

McTeacher's Night for Oleai Elementary School is also scheduled for the month of March. OES teacher, staff, and PTSA officers will be serving at McDonald's every Mondays on March 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 5pm to 8pm.

All parents and the community of Hopwood Jr. High School and Oleai Elementary School are encouraged to drop by McDonald's (Middle Road) and support these schools' fundraising activity. **(PR)**

**MIFICPA to host tax seminar on Saturday**

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be hosting a tax seminar dubbed "Tax Updates 2013" on March 2, 2013, Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. Registration starts at 12:30pm. The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, of Burger & Comer.

Registration fee for members is \$20 (includes \$5 membership renewal). Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. For more information, contact Noli Santos at 285-6810 or nolsantos@yahoo.com, Aileen Indino at 287-0305 or aileenindino@hotmail.com, or Butch Ordas at 789-9276 or butchordas@yahoo.com. **(Mificpa)**

**Tinian swearing-in for Hofschneider**

The Offices of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor, together with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan, would like to invite the general public to a swearing-in ceremony for Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater, Tinian.

The ceremony will begin at 10am, followed by a dinner reception at 6pm, at Natibu Park, Tinian. An inaugural Mass will also be held for Hofschneider at the San Jose Par-

ish, Tinian, at 8am. **(PR)**

**Inos is guest speaker at Chamber meeting**

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting commences at noon. Gov. Eloy Inos will be the guest speaker. Northern Marianas College will also provide information about the new relationship between NMC and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Luncheon is \$20 for Chamber members, and \$30 for guests and the public. Call the Chamber office at 233-7150 for reservations, or contact coordinator@saipanchamber.com for further information. **(SCC)**

**Friends of the Arts sets auditions for 'Miss Saigon'**

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's Miss Saigon on May 3, 4, and 5. Interested performers and would-be performers are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School on Tuesday, March 12, from 6pm to 8pm. Copies of the script can be picked up for viewing at the Dolphin Theater on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 26-27, and at the MHS Main Office secretary Thursday and Friday, Feb 28 and March 1. **(PR)**

**Bowling Nite today**

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join Bowling Nite today, March 1, 2013, at Capital Bowling across Garapan Elementary School at 7pm. For more information or inquiry, give a call to Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. **(PR)**

**UOG to host Marianas History Conference**

The 2013 Marianas History Con-

ference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit [www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-](http://www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference)

marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). **(UOG)**

**Schools invited to Academic Challenge Bowl**

The Marianas High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be hosting the elementary-level Academic Challenge Bowl on April 6, 2013, a Saturday.

All public and private el-

ementary schools are invited to participate in this event. Each participating school will need to form a team consisting of five students from grade four to six.

If your school is interested in joining this islandwide competition, confirm your participation by March 15, 2013, by faxing (664-3805), calling, or emailing NHS advisers Lorraine Catienza at 237-3282 or lorraine.catienza@cnmipss.org or Dr. Chas Algaier at 237-3219 or chas.algaier@cnmispss.org. **(PR)**

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## MAFEA swears in new officers



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Jude V. Hofschneider, right, inducts the new set of officers of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects for 2013-2014 in a ceremony on Feb. 23 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Senate President Ralph Torres, right, swears in the 2013-2014 board of directors of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects during the induction ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saturday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Accountants has a new set of officers.

The new leadership is composed of president Randy Jacob, vice president Larry Manacop, secretary Carlito Marquez, treasurer Joseph Jun Liberato, auditor Fernando Fortades, public relations officer Gregorio Saracho, and business manager Ruel Magtalas.

Meanwhile, the board of directors consists of chair Enrique Tabanda, vice chair Andrew Mesina, and members Domie Aquino, Ronald Catap, Ricardo Ansay, Manny Villaga, Jessie Arizala, Isagani Salazar, Rommel Crisostomo, Romeo Malasarte, and Rollie Atienza.

Lt. Gov. Jude V. Hofschneider and Senate President Ralph Torres inducted the MAFEA officers and board for 2013 to 2014 on Feb. 23 at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

In his remarks, Hofschneider touted the important role that architects and engineers play in the modern world, particularly in creating masterpieces that serve as a cultural symbol. For the CNMI, it is the latte stone that has become "a sign of cul-

ture, pride, and respect."

Hofschneider associated MAFEA with the base of the latte stone called *haligi* or post. "MAFEA symbolizes the strength and importance that you all have in our islands," he said. "It is your architects and engineers, present and past, that are shaping how the world sees us. ... Together, let us build a strong *haligi* for our islands and our future."

Some 50 MAFEA members and guests attended the event hosted by Hector Sevilla. Saturday's event opened with an invocation by Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez and also featured an entertainment number by Saipan Music and Dance Studio talents.

In his acceptance speech, Jacob thanked the membership for their vote of confidence, urging them to be resilient as MAFEA continues to face the uncertainties that lie ahead.

"I know that the road ahead of us is not as smooth as we thought, but I will try my very best to lead the way and guide our organization to overcome whatever comes our way. There is no guarantee that I can deliver and solve all the problems but together with your help, yes we can," he said.

For his part, Manacop touted the group's efforts to pro-

mote their profession and enhance their skills and growth through professional development programs.

"We Build" is our motto and MAFEA expects each member to live up to this ideal," he said.

Guest speaker Casiano Bostre said this motto denotes establishment of meaningful partnerships within the community.

"We have to realize that for every significant size of structure, building, infrastructures or any development, various disciplines of engineering are involved. Architects, engineers, and surveyors have their respective roles to its completion... Be proud of being a contributor and be part of the accomplishment of things that were built," he said.

Outgoing president Ruel Villacrusis noted that beyond the MAFEA members' success lies the need to pursue high ethical standards in their respective fields.

"Let us not forget that being successful in our profession is not only meeting the challenges of change but we must be morally upright in all aspects of our profession," he said.

MAFEA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 by an initial membership of 17 Filipino engineers and architects.

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## PROJECT BRABU

### *Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds*

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention Unit - Project Brabu is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for eligible communities in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.**

**I. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG):** **FY 2013 \$ 450,000**

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

- 1.) **Build Prevention Capacity and Infrastructure in the CNMI**
- 2.) **Prevent the Initiation of and Reduce Substance Abuse, Including Childhood and Underage Drinking**
- 3.) **Reduce Substance Abuse-related Problems**
- 4.) **Evaluate All Activities**

The SPF SIG provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Project Brabu and the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW):

- 1) **Underage Drinking, and/or**
- 2) **Drinking and Driving**

This grant award requires a Strategic Prevention Framework to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

- 1) **Assessment:** Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
- 2) **Capacity:** Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
- 3) **Planning:** Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
- 4) **Implement:** Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
- 5) **Evaluate:** Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

The Project Brabu Advisory Council will make the final recommendation in consultation and collaboration with the SPF SIG Project Director on applications to be awarded based on a point system. Ranking and scoring by the Scoring Committee and/or the Advisory Council interview process are not subject to protest or appeal. **Upon notification of an interview with the Advisory Council, organizations are required to appear on the scheduled day. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of the application.** The grant application guidelines detail the information required and the points under each of the sections.

**All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: DPH Project Brabu's office on Saipan and the Prevention Coordinators on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2013.**

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Project Brabu Office at the CHCC: DPH or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian. Also, the application form and guidelines are available online at [www.cgcsnp.net](http://www.cgcsnp.net). For more information, please contact Ms. Tiara Evangelista at 236-8740 or [ti.evangelista@gmail.com](mailto:ti.evangelista@gmail.com) (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or [tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com](mailto:tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com); or Ms. Avery Hocog, Prevention Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or [projectbraburota@yahoo.com](mailto:projectbraburota@yahoo.com).

Pre application workshops are scheduled as follows:

- March 27 (Saipan), LaoLao Bay Resort Saipan
- April 5 (Tinian), TBD
- April 12 (Rota), TBD

These workshops will provide on-site technical assistance in discussing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) 5-step process, the sub grant components and requirements. The workshops are available to interested community members/agencies and are free of charge; however, slots are limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the coordinators on each respective island to pre-register.

/s/ **Mr. Claudio Norita**  
Chairman, Advisory Council

/s/ **Mrs. Reyna Saures**  
SPF SIG Project Director

# Business

## As budget cuts loom, is govt shutdown next?

WASHINGTON (AP)—With big, automatic budget cuts about to kick in, House Republicans are turning to mapping strategy for the next showdown just a month away, when a government shutdown instead of just a slowdown will be at stake.

Both topics are sure to come up at the White House meeting Friday between President Barack Obama and top congressional leaders, including Republican House Speaker John Boehner. A breakthrough on replacing or easing the imminent across-the-board spending cuts still seems unlikely at the first face-to-face discussion between Obama and Republican leaders this year.

To no one's surprise, even as a dysfunctional Washington appears incapable of averting a crisis over economy-rattling spending cuts, it may be lurching toward another over a possible shutdown.

Republicans are planning for a vote next week on a bill to

fund the day-to-day operations of the government through the Sept. 30 end of the 2013 fiscal year—while keeping in place the new \$85 billion in cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 8 percent to the military.



Boehner

The need to keep the government's doors open and lights on—or else suffer the first government shutdown since 1996—requires the GOP-dominated House and the Democratic-controlled Senate to agree. Right now they hardly see eye to eye.

The House GOP plan, unveiled to the rank and file on Wednesday, would award the Pentagon and the Veterans Administration with their line-by-line budgets, for a more-targeted rather than indiscriminate batch of military cuts, but would deny domestic agencies the same treatment. And that has whipped up opposition from veteran Democratic senators on the Appropriations Committee. Domestic agencies would see their budgets frozen almost exactly as

they are, which would mean no money for new initiatives such as cybersecurity or for routine increases for programs such as low-income housing.

"We're not going to do that," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "Of course not."

Any agreement needs to pass through a gauntlet of House tea party conservatives intent on preserving the across-the-board cuts and Senate Democrats pressing for action on domestic initiatives, even at the risk of creating a foot-tall catchall spending bill.

There's also this: GOP leaders have calculated that the automatic cuts arriving on Friday need to be in place in order for them to be able to muster support from conservatives for the catchall spending bill to keep the government running. That's because many staunch conservatives want to preserve the cuts even as defense hawks and others fret about the harm that might do to the military and the economy. If the automatic cuts are dealt with before the government-wide funding bill gets a vote, there could be a conservative revolt.

## Senate Dems' bill light on deficit cuts in 2013

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House-backed legislation in the Senate to replace \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts would raise the deficit through the end of the budget year by tens of billions of dollars, officials said late Wednesday as the two parties maneuvered for public support on economic issues.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said that under the Democratic measure, deficits also would rise in each of the next two years before turning downward.

Democratic officials had said earlier in the day their bill would spread one year's worth of anticipated savings—\$85 billion—over a decade in an attempt to avoid damaging the shaky economic recovery.

The legislation would cancel across-the-board cuts due to begin on Friday. Instead, it would eliminate payments to some farmers, enact defense

reductions beginning in two years and impose tax increases, mostly on millionaires.

White House spokesman Jay Carney recently told reporters at the White House the administration supports the measure.

The Senate is expected to vote on Thursday on rival Democratic and Republican plans to replace the spending cuts, known in Washington-speak as a "sequester." Both bills are expected to fail.

In an indication that across-the-board cuts are inevitable, President Barack Obama has set a meeting with congressional leaders for the day they take effect. While the administration has warned of severe cuts in government services as a result of the reductions, few, if any, are likely to be felt for several weeks.

That could give the administration and lawmakers breathing room to negotiate a replacement, although Sen-

ate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said during the day there were limits to what could be negotiated.

"We can either secure those reductions more intelligently, or we can do it the president's way with across-the-board cuts. But one thing Americans simply will not accept is another tax increase to replace spending reductions we already agreed to," he said.

Democrats said their proposal to replace across-the-board cuts was designed with the economy in mind.

It "seeks the same amount of savings in a more responsible way" as the \$85 billion in cuts that will otherwise take effect, said Adam Jentleson, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

"The impact on the economy is much better. Sequestration as constituted would hurt economic growth and destroy jobs," he added.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Hostess sale of Wonder bread nears completion

NEW YORK (AP)—Wonder bread could start appearing in school lunchboxes again soon. A person familiar with the situation says a bid by Flowers Foods to buy Wonder and several other bread brands from bankrupt Hostess was met with no qualifying competing offers. The individual requested anonymity because the auction process is private. Hostess hasn't been making any of its cakes and breads since late November, when the company announced it was going out of business and closed its plants following years of financial struggles. The shut-

tering included the loss of about 18,000 jobs.

#### NJ governor: Fed flood insurance program 'awful'

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says federal flood insurance claims from Superstorm Sandy are being paid too slowly. Christie stepped up criticism of the federal program on Townsquare Media's "Ask the Governor" program Wednesday. The Republican governor says he complained to President Barack Obama over the weekend that "the performance of the national flood insurance program is unacceptable, that it's awful."



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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-13-015

**SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for, American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation," to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles\_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Acting Executive Director

# Nation

## Father of Newtown victim: Ban assault weapons

WASHINGTON (AP)—After weeks of arguing constitutional fine points and citing rival statistics, senators wrangling over gun control saw and heard the anguish of a bereft father.

Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse, was among those cut down at a Connecticut elementary school in December, asked the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday to ban assault weapons like the one that killed his child.

"I'm not here for the sympathy or the pat on the back," Heslin, a 50-year-old construction worker, told the senators, weeping openly during much of his hushed 11-minute testimony. "I'm here to speak up for my son."

At his side were photos: of his son as a baby, of them both taken on Father's Day, six months before Jesse was among 20 first-graders and six administrators killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. That massacre has hoisted gun control to a primary political issue this year, though the outcome remains uncertain.

The hearing's focus was legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to ban assault weapons and ammunition magazines carrying more than 10 rounds. A Bushmaster assault weapon was used at Newtown by the attacker, Adam Lanza, whose body was found with 30-round magazines.

Feinstein said such a firearm "tears peoples' bodies apart. I don't know why as a matter of public policy we can't say they don't belong."

Republicans had several an-



AP  
Neil Heslin, the father of a six-year-old boy who was slain in the Sandy Hook massacre in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, holds a picture of himself with his son Jesse and wipes his eye while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013.

swers. They argued her proposal would violate the Second Amendment's right to bear arms and take firearms from law-abiding citizens, and said current laws aimed at keeping guns from criminals are not

fully enforced.

"The best way to prevent crazy people" from getting firearms is to better enforce the existing federal background check system, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

That system is designed to prevent criminals, people with mental problems and others from obtaining guns. It only applies to weapons sold by federally licensed dealers, and expanding that system to nearly all gun transactions is the central proposal in President Barack Obama's package of gun restrictions he unveiled last month, along with bans on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

As if to underscore the hurdles Obama's plan faces on Capitol Hill, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., told reporters Wednesday that he opposed universal background checks like the president wants and predicted it would not be part of his chamber's gun legislation. He wants the current federal background check system strengthened, improving how states provide it with mental health information about citizens and cracking down on illegal gun trafficking.

## A troubled grandmother, a birthday and 2 dead boys

NORTH STONINGTON, Conn. (AP)—Debra Denison's struggles with mental illness were well known in her family, and when she wanted to pick up her grandsons from day care to mark the older boy's birthday, mother Brenda Perry hesitated.

Denison not only wanted to pick up 2-year-old Alton and 6-month-old Ashton, but she also wanted to do it alone, the boys' great-grandmother said. Perry told her mother the boys were too much for her to handle, but Denison insisted.

"She was apparently very convincing," said Marcia White, the boys' great-grandmother on their father's side. So Perry asked her to take along another relative. She didn't—and now a family and a town are wondering whether anything could have prevented what came next.

Denison left a suicide note, drove alone to the day care, picked up the boys, took them to a nearby lake and apparently used her husband's gun to fatally shoot them and herself, authorities and relatives said Wednesday. The

bodies were found Tuesday night, about two hours after a frantic search began.

State police had not officially determined they all died because of the gunfire, but autopsies were planned.

Denison, 47, also had a 13-year-old son who was not with her Tuesday afternoon and was unharmed. In her suicide note, she said in part that God was watching over him on Tuesday, White said. What exactly she meant by that, and her motive for the killings and suicide, remain unclear.

## Justices voice skepticism of voting rights law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court's conservative justices voiced deep skepticism Wednesday about a section of a landmark civil rights law that has helped millions of Americans exercise their right to vote.

In an ominous note for supporters of the key provision of the Voting Rights Act, Justice Anthony Kennedy both acknowledged the measure's vital role in fighting discrimination and suggested that other important laws in U.S. history had run their course. "Times change," Kennedy said during the fast-paced, 70-minute argument.

Kennedy's views are likely to prevail on the closely divided court, and he tends to side with his more conservative colleagues on matters of race.

The court's liberals and conservatives engaged in a sometimes tense back-and-forth over whether there is an ongoing need in 2013 for the part of the voting rights law that requires states

with a history of discrimination, mainly in the Deep South, to get approval before making changes in the way elections are held.

Justice Antonin Scalia called the law a "perpetuation of racial entitlement." Chief Justice John Roberts, a vocal skeptic of the use of race in all areas of public life, cited a variety of statistics that showed starker racial disparities in some aspects of voting in Massachusetts than in Mississippi. Then he asked the government's top Supreme Court lawyer whether the Obama administration thinks "the citizens in the South are more racist than citizens in the North?"

The answer from Solicitor General Donald Verrilli was no.

The question, and others like it from the conservative justices, largely echoed the doubts they first expressed four years ago in a similar case that ended without resolving the constitutionality of the latest renewal of the voting rights law, in 2006.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>EDWIN REYES DELA CRUZ</b> Petitioner,	<b>FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION</b> <b>NO. 12-0567</b>
<b>vs.</b>	<b>SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION</b>
<b>ANGELINA MINULUAN DELA CRUZ</b> Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505184 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Name: Jeanna-Dine R. Rios  
Telephone No.: 670-235-6383

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: Junie Gayle R. Rios</b> Minor Child,	<b>FCD GU CIVIL ACTION</b> <b>NO. 13 - 0087</b>
<b>By</b>	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
<b>Jeanna-Dine R. Rios &amp; Roxella R. Meeyog</b> Petitioners	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 21, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 25 day of February, 2013

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID ITB13-DPL-081**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"JANITORIAL AND CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS  
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP13-CHC-071**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"TO PROVIDE DATA SYSTEMS FOR THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM A PROJECT UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA  
CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID ITB13-DPL-074 TINIAN**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE (TINIAN BRANCH) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

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THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS  
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
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## In Humble Gratitude



TO ALL

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**Thank You Most Sincerely. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Maraming Salamat Po!**

We are forever grateful and you shall be remembered in our prayers and hearts. May God continue to bless us all.

**Auring Santos  
Miriam and Nathan  
Helen, Mhoy, JettBoy, Susan, Jac, Biboy  
Jojo, Lynn, Joshua  
Joanne, Bernard, Joanie, Joseph, Brianna**

# Asia

## Reports: China carrier permanent base is Qingdao

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's first aircraft carrier has docked at its new permanent base in the northern port of Qingdao, where it will be responsible for operations in waters surrounding Japan and the Korean Peninsula, media reports said Wednesday.

Speculation has swirled over where the ship, christened the Liaoning, would call home. It officially entered service on Sept. 25 amid a series of maritime disputes between China and its neighbors, particularly Japan, with which it is engaged in a tense standoff over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Qingdao is home to China's Northern Fleet, which is responsible for operations in the Yellow Sea, the Sea of Japan, parts of the East China Sea and the Bohai Gulf, about 150 kilo-

meters (93 miles) from Beijing. Qingdao offers the country's longest breakwater to guard against catastrophic storms, and remains ice-free year-round.

The official Xinhua News Agency and Global Times newspaper reported that the carrier left its temporary base in the northeastern port of Dalian on Tuesday for the first sea trials of the year following a three-month refitting. Xinhua said weapons systems were tested during the voyage to Qingdao, but gave no details.

The Liaoning is a refurbished Soviet-era carrier purchased from Ukraine that China has described as an experimental model. China is believed to have plans to use its experience with the Liaoning to build four or more carriers of its own, one or more of which

will be based at the southern island province of Sanya, which faces the South China Sea. China's claim to ownership of the entire South China Sea and its island groups is contested by Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia.

While the Liaoning doesn't yet have an aircraft complement or battle group, the carrier program has been the most eye-catching element of China's comprehensive naval buildup, which also includes ballistic missile submarines, modern destroyers and a new generation of stealth missile frigates, the first of which was launched Monday at Shanghai's naval shipyard.

The navy conducted landings on the Liaoning in November using J-15 carrier fighters based on Russia's Su-33.

## Taliban kill 17 Afghans in attack in east

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Taliban insurgents poisoned, then shot and killed 17 people as they slept at a local police post in eastern Afghanistan, one of two attacks in as many days targeting Afghan security forces, an official said Wednesday.

It's unclear how the militants were able to drug people inside the post before firing bullets into their incapacitated bodies Tuesday night, said Abdul Jamhe Jamhe, a government official in Ghazni province.

Ten members of the Afghan Local Police, a village-level defense force backed by the U.S. military and Afghan government, and seven of their civilian friends died in the attack, said Provincial Gov. Musa Khan Akbarzada. He said there was a conspiracy of some sort but declined to confirm if poison was involved.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah

Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in Andar district. He told The Associated Press by telephone that the attackers fatally shot the men in their sleep, but denied they had been poisoned.

Residents of Andar took up arms last spring and chased out insurgents. The villagers don't readily embrace any outside authority, be it the Taliban, the Afghan government or the U.S.-led NATO military coalition.

The lightly trained village defense force, which is overseen by the Interior Ministry, is tasked with helping bring security to remote areas. But President Hamid Karzai has expressed concern that without careful vetting, the program could end up arming local troublemakers, strongmen or criminals.

In other violence, a suicide bomber slid under a bus full of Afghan soldiers and blew him-

self up in Kabul, wounding 10 in an attack that underscored the insurgency's ability to attack in the heavily guarded capital. Kabul police said at least six soldiers and four civilians were wounded. The suicide attacker died.

The bomber, wearing a black overcoat, approached the bus purposefully in heavy morning snow as soldiers were boarding, set down his umbrella and went under the chassis as if to fix something, according to a witness. Watching from across the street, office worker Ahmad Shakib said he thought for a moment the man might have been a mechanic.

"I thought to myself, what is this crazy man doing? And then there was a blast and flames," that engulfed the undercarriage, he said. "It was a very loud explosion. I still cannot really hear."



### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Fire at illegal market In India kills at least 19

**KOLKATA, India (AP)**—A fire broke out at an illegal six-story plastics market in the Indian city of Kolkata early Wednesday, killing at least 19 people, police said. The blaze, which started before 4 a.m., was likely caused by a short circuit, said West Bengal fire minister Javed Khan. The fire was under control by mid-morning, he said, but toxic gases being released by the blaze were hampering rescue efforts. A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said at least 19 people had died. He said police were looking for the owner of the building, which was filled with dozens of small shops selling various plastic products.

#### China arrests 5 Tibetans for 'inciting' immolation

**BEIJING (AP)**—Chinese police arrested five Tibetans, mostly Buddhist monks, whom they allege worked at the behest of foreign forces to persuade three people to set themselves on fire in anti-Beijing protests. The arrests are the latest in an intensified crackdown on self-immolations by authorities in tightly controlled Tibetan areas and

indicate that China's new leadership is responding to the protesters' calls for greater freedom by clamping down even harder. In recent months, Tibetans have been arrested for encouraging others to self-immolate and have been handed sentences ranging from a few years in jail to death with a two-year reprieve, which is usually commuted to life imprisonment.

#### Loved ones salute New Zealand dad killed by shark

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—About 150 friends and family of Adam Strange wrote messages to him in the sand and stepped into the water Thursday at a New Zealand beach to say goodbye a day after he was killed by a large shark while training for an endurance swim. Strange, 46, was an award-winning television and short film director and the father of a 2-year-old girl. He was swimming near popular Muriwai Beach on Wednesday when he was attacked by the shark that was possibly 14 feet (4 meters) long. Police attempting to save him raced out in inflatable boats and fired gunshots at the enormous predator, which they say rolled away and disappeared. They couldn't confirm if they'd killed it. Police were able to recover Strange's body.

## In Loving Memory of Beatrice Mendiola Sablan Sanchez

May 10, 1932 - February 24, 2013

**HUSBAND:** †Jose Aguon Sanchez  
**FATHER:** †Jose Salas Sablan  
**MOTHER:** †Maria Cabrera Mendiola Sablan  
**FATHER IN-LAW:** †Catalino Quita Sanchez  
**MOTHER IN-LAW:** †Dolores Ofrocido Sanchez

#### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

†Maria Dolores Sanchez  
†Tardio S. Sanchez (Teresita) Ken, Ashley  
†Francisco Sanchez, Nicole, Kimberly, Britney, Bryan  
†Edward (Theodosia) Edward Jr., Jaime (John) Barcinas,  
John Jr., Adam, Wayne, Victoria, Kioni Sablan,  
Shelaina Sablan  
Lydia (Antonio) Santos - John - Kimberly, Jonathan,  
Brittiah, Dimitry, †Lorraine, Kaylani, Ray Ray,  
Bradley, Maria, Dean (Melani) Dean Anthony,  
Nershanalyn, Emelyn,  
Sherlynn (Fred) Songao, Angiely, Ayshia  
†John (Eva) Sanchez - Lynette, John Boy  
Lillian (William) Aguon - Nacrina, Barny - Glen Jacob, Barny Jr. Narissa - Lynasha  
Wayne Sanchez  
Danita (Henis) Nedlic, Anton, Derick (Athena) Danise, Henis Jr.

#### BROTHERS/SISTER

†Nonito (Dolores) Sablan, Francisco (Anna) Sablan, Daniel D. Guerrero, †Catalina Sablan  
(†Candido) Diaz,  
Anuncia (William) Twilligear, Miguel (†Asuncion) Sablan, Jesus M. (Orana) Sablan, †Casilda S.  
(Thomas) Duenas, Rosa M. Sablan (†Quirino Aquino), Prescilla (Philip) Soto, Anna Cabrera  
Lizama, Vitaliano Moses,

#### IN-LAWS:

Nicolas (Joseph) Sanchez, Godfredo (Rosa) Sanchez, Enrique Sanchez, Juliana Sanchez, Juan  
(Concepcion) Dlg. Sanchez, Jose Sanchez

Mass of intention is being said every morning at 6:00a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Monday, March 04, 2013 at 7:30a.m., her remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be held at 8:00a.m., followed by the Eucharistic Mass at 10:00a.m.

Internment Service will follow at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.



# World

## Pope legacy: Teacher who returned to church's roots

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—On Monday, April 4, 2005, a priest walked up to the Renaissance palazzo housing the Vatican's doctrine department and asked the doorman to call the official in charge: It was the first day of business after Pope John Paul II had died, and the cleric wanted to get back to work.

The office's No. 2, Archbishop Angelo Amato, answered the phone and was stunned. This was no ordinary priest. It was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, his boss, who under the Vatican's arcane rules had technically lost his job when John Paul died.

"It tells me of the great humility of the man, the great sense of duty, but also the great awareness that we are here to do a job," said Bishop Charles Scicluna, who worked with Ratzinger before he became Pope Benedict XVI, inside the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In resigning, Scicluna said, Benedict is showing the same sense of humility, duty and service as he did after the Catholic Church lost its last pope.

"He has done his job."

When Benedict flies off into retirement by helicopter on Thursday, he will leave behind a church in crisis—one beset by sex scandal, internal divisions and dwindling numbers.

But the 85-year-old pope can count on a solid legacy: While his very resignation was his most significant act, Benedict—in a quieter way—also set the

church back on a conservative, tradition-minded path.

He was guided by the firm conviction that many of the ills afflicting the church could be traced to a misreading of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

He insisted that the 1962-65 meetings that brought the church into the modern era were not a radical break from the past, as portrayed by many liberals, but rather a continuation of the best traditions of the 2,000-year-old church.

Benedict was the teacher pope, a theology professor who turned his Wednesday general audiences into master classes about the Catholic faith and the history, saints and sinners that contributed to it.

In his teachings, he sought to boil Christianity down to its essential core. He didn't produce volumes of encyclicals like his predecessor, just three: on charity, hope and love. (He penned a fourth, on faith, but retired before finishing it.)

Considered by many to be the greatest living theologian, he authored more than 65 books, stretching from the classic "Introduction to Christianity" in 1968 to the final installment of his triptych on "Jesus of Nazareth" last year—considered by some to be his most important contribution to the church. In between he produced the "Catechism of the Catholic Church"—essentially a how-to guide to being a Catholic.

Benedict spent the bulk of his

early career in the classroom, as a student and then professor of dogma and fundamental theology at universities in Bonn, Muenster, Tuebingen and Regensburg, Germany.

This Sept. 6, 2006 file photo shows Pope Benedict XVI wearing a "saturno hat", inspired by the ringed planet Saturn, to shield himself from the sun as he waves to the crowd of faithful prior to his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

AP



## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### †PATRICIA TAITANO CABRERA REYES

*Lovingly known as "PATSY"*

Born to Life on August 24, 1961 and was called to her Eternal Life on February 23, 2013



*In her new Life, Pat will be met by her:*

**MOTHER:** Juliana T. Cabrera  
**FATHER:** Vicente R. Cabrera  
**MOTHER IN LAW:** Rosa A. Reyes  
**FATHER IN LAW:** Jose M. Reyes  
**SISTER IN LAW:** LaDonna R. Dement

**SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER:**

**HUSBAND:** Antonio Aguon Reyes (Toi)

**CHILDREN:** Dayna C. Reyes/Sean & Children; Darin C. Reyes/Sophia; Darcy C. Reyes/Melisa & Children; Vincent C. Reyes/Willanie & Children; Antonio C. Reyes/Cindy; Ryan C. Reyes; Kyle C. Reyes

**BROTHERS & SISTERS:** Maria C. Roppul & Children; Antonio T. Cabrera/Nieves & Children; Concolacion C. Iginoef/Joaquin & Children; Joseph T. Cabrera/Leocardia & Children; Evelyn C. Camacho & Children; Raymond Santos/Jennifer & Children; Edwin T. Cabrera/Dina & Children; Elphidia C. Andres/Jerome; Lucinda C. Kukkun/Michael & Children; Sylvia O. Smith/Timothy & Children

**BROTHERS & SISTERS IN LAW:** Francisco A. Reyes/Rita & Children; Vicente A. Reyes/Carmen & Children; Stoney Dement & Children; Joseph A. Reyes/Elery & Children; Luis A. Reyes/Patricia & Children

*She is also survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins & many Friends*

Masses of intentions are being prayed nightly at San Vicente Church at 6:00 pm and Holy Rosary is said nightly at CHC Chapel at 7:30 pm.

Burial will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 with a procession starting at 7:30 am from CHC to Mt. Carmel Cathdal. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 pm followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetary.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

*Thank You*

**The Family**

*In Humble Gratitude*

We the family of the late

†Juan Borja Tudela

wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Appreciation - Si Yu'us Ma'ase' to our families, relatives, and friends. Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow of our loss. Your presence with us at the daily mass, nightly rosary and during the Mass of Christian Burial has given us strength to carry on each day. We thank you so much - Dangkulo na Agradesimiento. As you have remembered our beloved †Juan in your prayers, please be assured that we will also remember you and your loved one in ours.

May God Bless Us All.

Antonia Masga Tudela, Children, and Families of  
 †Juan Borja Tudela

# Off The Wall

## Lions and bears removed from Romanian gangster's property

**BUCHAREST, Romania** (AP)—A man known as Nutzu the Pawnbroker has been indicted for leading a fearsome criminal gang, but the public seems to be more interested in his pets: four lions and two bears.

Ion Balint—his real name—had long been known to have an affinity for wild beasts in his home.

"You said I fed men to the lions?" Balint was recorded saying on a videotape as he rode away from prison on a black stallion in 2010. "Why don't you come over and I'll give you some lions!"

Authorities won't confirm that the lions and bears were used to intimidate rivals at his high-walled and heavily guarded estate in the poorest part of Bucharest. The compound also contained less fearsome beasts, including thoroughbred horses and canaries.

Balint, 48, a stocky man with a mustache and a receding hairline, often appears dressed in T-shirts and tracksuits.

The Romanian news media were awash in unconfirmed reports about Balint's excesses, reporting that he used the lions and bears to intimidate rivals and that his house contained a torture chamber.

His son-in-law, Marius Vlad, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the reports were false.

"Many untruths are being reported," he said.

Bystanders and relatives who gathered near the gates of the estate described Balint as a good neighbor and an animal lover, and said they weren't bothered by roaring lions.

"We can hear them every day, but only when they're hungry or the female is in heat," said Gabriela Ionescu, 36, clutching her toddler daughter's hand. "They don't disturb us at all."

Authorities allege that Balint and his brother Vasile headed a criminal network which controlled much of the underworld activity in Bucharest, a city of



A sedated lion is surrounded by media at the estate of Ion Balint, known to Romanians as Nutzu the Pawnbroker, a notorious gangster, in Bucharest, Romania, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

2 million. Some 400 police and detectives were involved in the investigation which led to the arrest last week of 67 suspects, including the Balint brothers.

In 2009, Balint was convicted of human trafficking, violence and pimping, and sentenced to 13 years in prison. That was reduced to six years, but Balint was free after a year.

On Wednesday, the four lions and two bears were sedated, put in cages and removed by environmental authorities and the Vier Pfoten animal welfare charity. The animals, which generally appeared in good condition, will be temporarily housed in a

zoo and may eventually be re-located in South Africa, animal welfare officers said.

Mircea Pupaza, commissioner of the National Environment Guard, told The Associated Press that Balint had no documentation or health records for the animals, which he's kept illegally for 10 years. He could face a year in prison and a hefty fine for illegally keeping wild animals.

"The lions are a status symbol for him," said Livia Cimpoeu, a Vier Pfoten spokeswoman. She declined to speculate whether they had a more sinister purpose.

joined the Palo Alto zoo last year.

### Maine man can whistle, but he must keep moving

**PORTLAND, Maine** (AP)—A man charged with disorderly conduct for his loud whistling in downtown Portland has reached a deal with the city—he can whistle, but he can't linger in one spot. Robert Smith, of Westbrook, has been cited by police twice in the past year after businesses complained. He pleaded guilty last summer and reached a deal with the city in which he can keep whistling as long as he's moving. Smith maintains that his whistling—audible a block away—is protected free speech and usually brings smiles. "God is showing me what I'm doing is OK," he told The Portland Press Herald. "He shows me every day with laughter."

# Science & Technology

## Apple CEO: 'Great stuff' to come

**CUPERTINO, Calif.** (AP)—Apple CEO Tim Cook sought to reassure shareholders worried about the company's sagging stock price that the iPhone and iPad maker is on the verge of inventing more breakthrough products that will prove it hasn't lost its creative edge.

"The company is working as hard as ever, and we have some great stuff coming," Cook told shareholders Wednesday before taking their questions during Apple's annual meeting at its Cupertino, Calif., headquarters.

True to Apple's secretive nature, Cook didn't provide any further product details, although at one point he said the company is considering entering other categories besides its popular line of digital music players, smartphones and tablet computers.

There has been speculation that Apple is working on an Internet-connected watch or TV that will be introduced later this year. One shareholder at Wednesday's meeting threw a new idea for Apple to ponder—a computerized bicycle. Cook, an avid bicyclist, chuckled at the suggestion, along with the rest of the audience.

Although there were more

moments of levity, Wednesday's meeting was less celebratory than the events in past years, when Apple's stock price was soaring to the delight and enrichment of its shareholders.

Since hitting an all-time high of \$705.07 five months ago, Apple's stock has plunged by 37 percent. The decline has wiped out collective shareholder wealth totaling \$240 billion. That amount exceeds the total market value of Microsoft Corp., which reigned as the most influential company in personal computing until Apple ushered in an era of mobile devices with the 2007 release of the iPhone and the 2010 introduction of the iPad.



Cook

## Using email to send iPad text messages

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Readers to the rescue! Several readers say there's a better solution for the mother of a hearing-impaired daughter who wants to text friends via an Apple iPad.

I pointed out in last week's column that, while iPad texting is feasible, it's limited to sending text messages to other Apple devices, such as an iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch or Macintosh computer.

Cletus Willems of Edina, Minn.; Aaron Heagerty of Santa Cruz, Calif.; and others suggested that the mother, Maurine Dyrda of Mounds View, Minn., should instead bypass pure text-messaging in favor of a free hybrid solution that involves email and texting. By sending an email message to the phone number of the intended text recipient, the email will emerge on the recipient's phone as a text message. Text recipients would email back.

This has long been possible, and has the advantage of allowing an iPad user to send a message to any device that has a cellphone number, regardless of what type of cellphone it is.

The catch is that you need to know the correct email address for the cellphone's service provider in order for it to work. For instance, to send an email that will be received as a text message on an AT&T phone, the email must be addressed to number@txt.att.net. For Sprint phones, the address is number@messaging.sprintpcs.com, for Verizon Wireless it's number@vtext.com and for T-Mobile the address is number@tmomail.net.

But there is a limitation to

Cook, who became CEO shortly before Apple co-founder Steve Jobs died in October 2011, has a huge incentive to get the company's stock price strong again. The 1.1 million Apple shares he owns are worth about \$300 million less than they were five months ago.

"I don't like it, either," Cook said of the downturn in Apple's stock.

Apple Inc. hasn't unveiled another trailblazing product since Cook took over, raising concerns about whether the company is losing the ingenuity that has set it apart from the rest of the technology pack.

Cook told shareholders the company's commitment to innovation remains Apple's "North Star" and "the beat of its heart."

this messaging method. Although you are sending an email, the recipient is receiving a text message, which is limited to 160 characters. So it's best to keep your email message short.

**QUESTION: I purchased a new Windows 7 laptop last June. At the time, it was much faster than my old PC. But now the startup is slowing down. Is this related to the number of programs that run during startup? How can I remove some of them?—Bill Coyle, Reading, Pa.**

**ANSWER:** I think you've inadvertently downloaded some junk software, possibly malicious, that is slowing down your system. Go to MalwareBytes.org and click "free download" to download a program that will help get rid of junk programs and malicious software. After you run the program, be sure that your PC is protected by antivirus software.

**Q: Can you suggest a photo recovery program for a 4-gigabyte SD (Secure Digital) camera card that has become corrupt?—Martha Caparell, South Bend, Ind.**

**A:** This is becoming a bigger problem as more people store their photos and data on camera memory cards and USB flash drives. You can find reviews of six data recovery programs from Computerworld at <http://tinyurl.com/bzn8xhe>. Prices range from free to \$70.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Zoo's bald eagle captured after 3 days on the lam

**PALO ALTO, Calif.** (AP)—A radio transmitter and then a feast of quail and mouse led to the capture of a California zoo's bald eagle after three days on the lam. The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo's tame 24-year-old bald eagle Sequoia was enjoying her daily exercise Saturday at a park when strong winds spooked her. Instead of returning to handlers, she flew north and roosted in Menlo Park. The San Jose Mercury News reports Sequoia was tracked Monday to a Redwood City tree. The famished bird finally dropped from her perch to the arm of trainer John Flynn, who rewarded her with a quail and mouse feast. Sequoia ventured out on her own eight times while at the San Francisco Zoo. She

# Life & Style

## Rosa Parks statue unveiled at Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's most powerful politicians honored Rosa Parks on Wednesday by unveiling her statue in a permanent place in the U.S. Capitol. President Barack Obama praised Parks as an enduring reminder of what true leadership requires, "no matter how humble or lofty our positions."

Parks became the first black woman to be depicted in a full-length statue in the Capitol's Statuary Hall. A bust of another black woman, abolitionist Sojourner Truth, sits in the Capitol Visitors Center.

"We do well by placing a statue of her here," Obama said. "But we can do no greater honor to her memory than to carry forward the power of her principle and a courage born of conviction."

The unveiling brought Obama, House Speaker John Boehner and other congressional leaders together in the midst of a fierce standoff over automatic spending cuts set to go



President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio applaud at the unveiling of a statue of Rosa Parks, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

into effect on Friday.

Setting that conflict aside, Obama and Boehner stood on either side of a blue drape, tugging and pulling in opposite directions on a braided cord until the cover fell to reveal a 2,700-pound bronze statue of a seated Parks, her hair in a bun under a hat, her hands crossed

over her lap and clasping her purse. Obama gazed up at it, and touched its arm.

At the same time across the street, conservative Supreme Court justices voiced skepticism about the relevance of the Voting Rights Act, one of the major legislative victories of the movement to which Parks devoted her life.

Parks' civil rights movement colleague Jesse Jackson, whose son former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. sponsored the bill to place Parks' statue in the Capitol, said Parks "fought her way into history," and on three occasions, took literacy tests required of blacks who wanted to vote. She passed all three, Jackson said.

## Lawyer says Lohan committed to turning life around

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is committed to turning her life around and wants to record public service announcements on the dangers of domestic violence, alcohol abuse and drunken driving, her attorney said Wednesday.

Mark Heller told The Associated Press that the actress' plans are independent of a criminal case that could return her to jail on charges that she lied to police about being a passenger in her car when it slammed into a dump truck in June.

The "Liz & Dick" star has been repeatedly sentenced to jail, rehab, and community service since her first pair of arrests for driving under the influence in 2007. She spent several months in court-ordered psychotherapy until a judge released her from supervised probation in March 2012.

As part of the intense psychotherapy sessions, Lohan is in the beginning stages of trying to become an inspirational speaker to



Lohan

young people, he said.

"I think she suddenly woke up one morning and had an epiphany and she suddenly realized and appreciated the seriousness of the events that led to her being in court," Heller said.

"She's going to try to inspire hope in people," he said. "I think it will be good for her. It certainly won't hurt others."

Heller mentioned Lohan's intent to become an inspirational

speaker in a letter to prosecutors and a judge that was obtained Tuesday. He said he will meet with prosecutors on Friday to try to reach a resolution in Lohan's newest case, which includes misdemeanor charges of reckless driving and obstructing officers from performing their duties.

She has pleaded not guilty. Lohan, 26, was on probation at the time of the crash and faces up to 245 days in jail if a judge determines her conduct violated her probation in a 2011 necklace theft case.

## Van Cliburn, pianist and Cold War hero, dies at 78

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—For a time in Cold War America, Van Cliburn had all the trappings of a rock star: sold-out concerts, adoring, out-of-control fans and a name recognized worldwide. He even got a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

And he did it all with only a piano and some Tchaikovsky concertos.

The celebrated pianist played for every American president since Harry Truman, plus royalty and heads of state around the world. But he is best remembered for winning a 1958 piano competition in Moscow that helped thaw the icy rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Cliburn, who died Wednesday at 78 after fighting bone cancer, was "a great humanitarian and a brilliant musician whose light



This Sept. 18, 2008 file photo shows pianist Van Cliburn at the presentation ceremony of the Liberty Medal that was presented to former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev in Philadelphia.

will continue to shine through his extraordinary legacy," said his publicist and longtime friend

Mary Lou Falcone. "He will be missed by all who knew and admired him, and by countless

people he never met."

The young man from the small east Texas town of Kilgore was a baby-faced 23-year-old when he won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow just six months after the Soviets' launch of Sputnik embarrassed the U.S. and inaugurated the space race.

Cliburn returned to a hero's welcome and the ticker-tape parade—the first ever for a classical musician. A Time magazine cover proclaimed him "The Texan Who Conquered Russia."

The win also showed the power of the arts, creating unity despite the tension between the superpowers. Music-loving Soviets clamored to see him perform. Premier Nikita Khrushchev reportedly gave the go-ahead for the judges to honor a foreigner: "Is Cliburn the best? Then give him first prize."

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### ★ NOW SHOWING ★

Jack The Giant Slayer 3D			
Friday			7:20
Saturday	1:20		7:20
Sunday	1:20		7:20
Mon through Thurs			7:20
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

**Synopsis**  
Eagle Eye director D.J. Caruso helps a dramatic interpretation of the classic Jack and the Beanstalk tale with this New Line Cinema production. Darren Lemke and Mark Bomback provide the script for the Neal Moritz/David Dobkin-produced fantasy drama.

Jack The Giant Slayer 2D			
Friday		4:20	9:50
Saturday		4:20	9:50
Sunday		4:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	
Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor			
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

The Last Exorcism II			
Friday		4:15	7:15 9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15 9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15
Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark			
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13			

**Synopsis**  
As Nell Sweetzer tries to build a new life after the events of the first movie, the evil force that once possessed her returns with an even more horrific plan.

21 and Over			
Friday		4:25	7:25 9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25 9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25
Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz			
Genre: Comedy • Rated R			

Snitch			
Friday		4:10	7:10 9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10 9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10
Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper			
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13			

Escape From Planet Earth 3D			
Friday		4:00	9:45
Saturday		4:00	9:45
Sunday		4:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba			
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG			

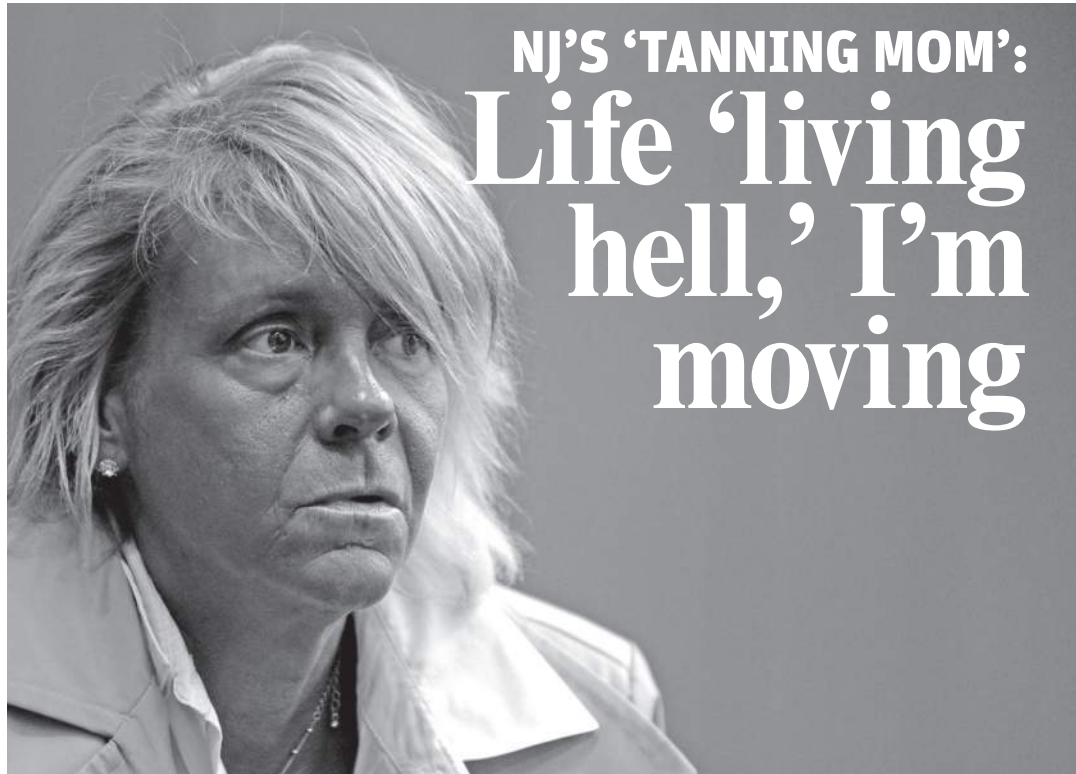
Escape From Planet Earth 2D			
Friday			7:00
Saturday	1:00		7:00
Sunday	1:00		7:00
Mon through Thurs			7:00
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba			
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG			

Good Day To Die Hard			
Friday		4:05	7:05 9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05 9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05
Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney			
Genre: Action • Rated R			

Beautiful Creatures			
Friday		4:30	7:30 10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30 10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30
Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons			
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13			

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## NJ'S 'TANNING MOM': Life 'living hell,' I'm moving

In this May 2, 2012 file photo, Patricia Krentcil, 44, waits to be arraigned at the Essex County Superior Court in Newark, N.J., where she appeared on charges of endangering her 5-year-old child by taking her into a tanning salon.

**NUTLEY, N.J. (AP)**—A New Jersey woman widely known as “the tanning mom” is celebrating a grand jury’s refusal to indict her on a charge she unlawfully let her 5-year-old daughter into a tanning booth.

Patricia Krentcil addressed reporters outside her Nutley home

Tuesday night by yelling: “chaching!” Prosecutors announced earlier in the day she no longer faced a child endangerment charge.

She says her life has been “a living hell” and she plans to move to London for a year to decompress while her husband and

kids stay in New Jersey.

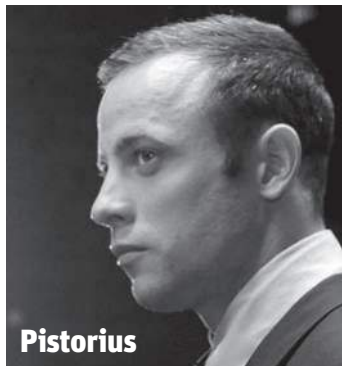
Krentcil became a tabloid sensation because of her own deep tan and professed love of tanning. She says “tanning is not a crime” and she’ll keep at it.

Asked what she learned from the whole episode, she replied, “People suck.”

## NBC, ID partners on Pistorius documentary

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The desire to produce a quick documentary on Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius and the shooting death of his live-in girlfriend has led to a new partnership between two television networks.

The Investigation Discovery Network on Sunday will premiere a special, “Beauty & The Blade Runner,” about the South African athlete and his role in the



Pistorius

shooting death of model Reeva Steenkamp. ID is making the special with the help of NBC News and that company’s Peacock Productions.

ID even coined a new phrase to describe the quick specials, calling them instamentaries.

People close to both Pistorius and Steenkamp talk on the special, which examines evidence in the case.

## Karen Mok finds answers on ‘Somewhere I Belong’

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Karen Mok wrestles with what’s been a lifelong question for her on the title of her first English album, “Somewhere I Belong.”

The Hong Kong pop diva has a half-Chinese, half-Welsh father and her mother is half-Chinese, one quarter-Iranian and a quarter-German. It’s easy to see why Mok cannot pinpoint one ethnic identity.

So where exactly does she feel like she belongs? Mok explains it’s not a geographic location, but rather her home is on stage, wherever she performs.

“It’s about what I do, when I feel comfortable, that’s when I’m doing what I love most, that’s singing, that’s when I’m performing on stage, and just singing my heart out, sharing my emotions,” she said. “So that’s where I belong.”

After 16 successful Mandarin/Cantonese albums, Mok is venturing into English lyrics and a mix of music styles.

The album is her first attempt to cross from pop to jazz. She sings classic jazz tunes, as well as reinterpretations of Chinese and Western pop songs.

Insisting on a jazz album with

an Asian sound, Mok made the album in China with Asian musicians and added a traditional Chinese instrument, the gu zeng string instrument, to the background of some tracks.

The 42-year-old songstress has been on the Asian entertainment scene for more than 20 years. She’s starred in over 40 feature

films and is the first Asian female artist to star in a Broadway show, when she was cast as Mimi in the 10th anniversary Asian tour of “Rent.”

Mok is currently promoting “Somewhere I Belong” in Asia.

Later this year, she will appear in Keanu Reeves’s directorial debut, “Man of Tai Chi.”



In this Jan. 31, 2013 photo, Hong Kong actress Karen Mok poses during an interview at a hotel in Hong Kong.

## Singer Scott Weiland responds to STP firing

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Singer Scott Weiland said he learned that he’d been fired by the Stone Temple Pilots when the band released a one-sentence statement to the media Wednesday.

“I learned of my supposed ‘termination’ from Stone Temple Pilots this morning by reading about it in the press,” he wrote in a statement. “Not sure how I can be ‘terminated’ from a band that I founded, fronted and co-wrote many of its biggest hits, but that’s something for the lawyers to figure out.”

The statement by the band said: “Stone Temple Pilots have announced they have officially terminated Scott Weiland.” No other information was provided.

Weiland said he’s focusing on his solo tour, which kicks off Friday in Flint, Mich.

Stone Temple Pilots’ 1992 debut, “Core,” has sold more than 8 million units in the United States. Their hits include “Vaseline,” “Interstate Love Song” and “Plush,” which won a Grammy in 1993 for best hard rock performance with vocal.

Weiland was also in the supergroup Velvet Revolver with Slash and other musicians. The 45-year-old has dealt with drug addiction, run-ins with the law and two failed marriages. He released his memoir, “Not Dead & Not for Sale,” in 2011.

The Stone Temple Pilots’ latest album is their self-titled 2010 release.

## Kristen Kish wins ‘Top Chef: Seattle’

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kristen Kish doesn’t need any more chances. She’s the winner of “Top Chef: Seattle.”

The 28-year-old chef de cuisine at Boston restaurant Stir was crowned champion of the Bravo cooking competition Wednesday. She faced off against Brooke Williamson, the 34-year-old co-executive chef of Los Angeles restaurants Hudson House and The Tripel.

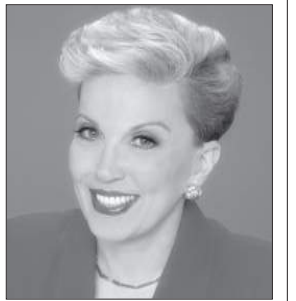
Kish won her spot on the finale after being eliminated from the competition and besting five previously eliminated contestants on the companion web series “Last Chance Kitchen.”

In the finale, Kish and Williamson prepared a five-course meal on the fly as the show’s judges and a crowd of diners watched.

Kish’s winning menu consisted of chicken liver mousse, citrus and lavender cured scallop, bone marrow, and red snapper. She wins the show’s \$125,000 grand prize.

## Son suspects dad’s death was an assisted suicide

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** I’m convinced my father’s wife killed him and I don’t know where to turn. He had fought complications from quadruple bypass surgery for a few years, and had been in hospice for months prior to his death. My siblings and I didn’t put all the pieces together until afterward.

*Dear Abby*

Although I’m sure Dad was killed, based on facts and discussions with social workers, I’m pretty sure it was assisted suicide, which is illegal in most states, including the state where he lived. I feel cheated and angry at my father’s wife for not having the guts to talk to us about his plans, and Dad for relying on her to tell us when she never had a good relationship with any of us. I’m also angry with myself for not stopping what I witnessed as it happened before my eyes. How could I have been so blind?

It has been several years now, and I still feel guilty for letting it happen, although I’m not sure how I could have stopped it. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

ANGRY SON IN GEORGIA

**DEAR ANGRY SON:** I’m sorry for your pain and anger, emotions that are not uncommon when a loved one dies. But for your own sake, accept that if your father had an advance health care directive, and trusted his wife to carry it out, then she was following his wishes. While today’s medical interventions can prolong someone’s life, they can also prolong death.

Hospice offers grief counseling for family members for a period of time after a death occurs, and you and your siblings should have received some. It would have helped you to stop blaming the wife, and let go of any negative feelings so you could go on with your life. And that, I assure you, is what your father would have wanted.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister “Mary” was in a car accident when she was in her 20s that left her with some brain damage. She appears normal, but has trouble with interpersonal relations, boundaries and impulse control. Overall, her behavior varies from acceptable to belligerent. When she was evaluated by professionals years ago, our family was advised to set standards for her behavior as near to normal as possible.

When we go to restaurants, Mary has a hard time deciding what to order, often engaging the server in an uncomfortable, long conversation about the alternatives. When her meal arrives, she is rarely satisfied with her choice and makes a scene over her dissatisfaction to the server. If we try to intervene, she becomes even more belligerent.

She looks forward to going out and we love her dearly. We would hate to exclude her from these family outings, but we don’t know what to do. Can you help?

IMPOSSIBLE TO DIGEST IN WASHINGTON STATE

**DEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO DIGEST:** Because you were told to “set standards” for your sister as near to normal as possible, that’s what you should be doing. Before you take her out for a meal, explain to her what the ground rules are. If she acts out, do as you would with an unruly child and leave the restaurant until she regains control of herself.

Because of her impairment, she may need extra help with her menu choices. Luckily, many restaurants now post their menus online. If you print one out and go over it with Mary, you might be able to make the process of ordering easier for her. I can’t promise it will work, but it’s certainly worth a try.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

*Abby* shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

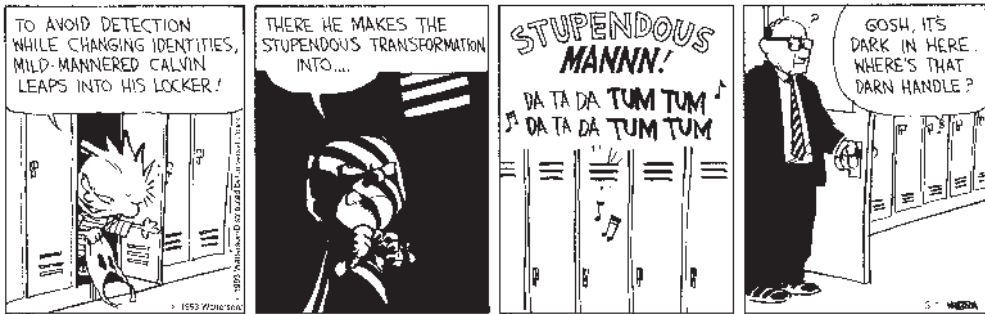
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

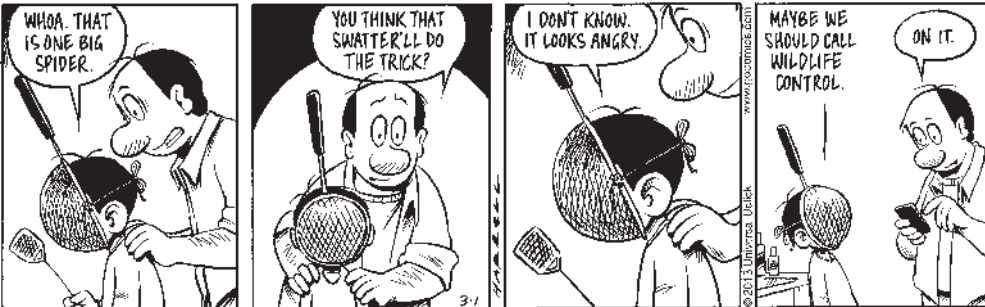


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Ref

4 Present

8 Jeans-maker

12 Seek damages

13 Dunkable treat

14 Mosque bigwig

15 Jogged untogged

17 Baby feeding finale

18 Standing

19 Parched

21 Started

22 Let slip

26 Reservation residence

29 Marry

30 Part of "to be"

31 Unoriginal one

32 Pickle container

33 Thick chunk

34 Grant opponent

35 Plague

**DOWN**

36 Coffer

37 Duration

39 Bill's partner

40 Scooted

41 Turmoil

45 Gujarat garment

48 Vigor

50 Help

51 Unctuous

52 "Holy cow!"

53 Upper-case

54 Untouchable

55 Agent

1 Cold War initials

2 Silent

3 Culpit

4 Small beard

5 Annoyed

6 Retainer

7 Little

8 Tripoli's land

9 Aussie bird

10 Alt.

11 Mischievous

16 Swiss mathematician

20 Scarlet

23 Hardy cabbage

24 Historic times

25 "Pay later" aftermath

26 Lofty

27 Duel tool

28 Hammer-head part

29 Grow bigger

32 Lincoln successor

33 Rid of wool

35 Sch. org.

36 Rabbits

38 Southern side dish

39 Ringlets

42 Early birds?

43 Flight component

44 Yon folks

45 Pouch

46 Counselors' grp.

47 Agt.

49 Dead heat

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

O	K	R	A	V	I	S	A	O	W	L
D	I	E	S	A	V	E	R	N	E	E
O	N	T	H	E	M	E	N	T	V	A
H	E	D	C	A	P	O	I	H	E	R
A	T	T	H	R	E	E				
A	N	O	N	A	R	E	A	D	A	M
M	E	N	G	Y	M	O	V	A		
P	O	T	S	A	S	P	S	T	E	P
H	E	A	R	T	A	M				
K	N	E	A	D	S	P	A	R	S	E
N	E	W	O	N	T	H	E	R	O	A
I	R	A	P	A	T	O	G	A		
T	O	Y	E	B	O	N	S	T	E	M

**Yesterday's answer 3-1**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Justin Bieber, 19; Javier Bardem, 44; Ron Howard, 59; Alan Thicke, 66.

**Happy Birthday:** Mingle and offer what you can for what you want. The interaction you have with people from different walks of life will teach you a valuable lesson that will benefit you when it comes to making situations happen. Greater security and stability is apparent due to the opportunities you are given and the choices you make. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 21, 26, 38, 40.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Listen carefully and avoid being sanctimonious. It's best to do your own thing and allow others the same privilege. At the end of the day you have to be good about what you accomplished, not what everyone else has done. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It's what you offer to do that will separate you from others. Don't let someone limit or interfere in your life or with your work. Make it clear what your goal is and how you are going to proceed. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** False information or confusing signals will lead you down a difficult path. If you aren't sure what's being asked of you, question your motives and those of the person you are dealing with. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stop dreaming and start doing. You have some wonderful ideas that must be implemented if you want to get ahead. Discover what you

are capable of doing by presenting what you have to offer to friends, family and clients. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Fix up your home or nurture an important relationship. Set aside funds to make domestic changes that will alter your life. A move, trip or involvement with an unusual group or lifestyle will enlighten you and your future. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Make plans to get together with friends, family, or take part in a community event. The people you meet and the exchanges you make with interesting people will shape the way you do things in the future. Love is on the rise. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Finish work before you decide to take off on an adventure. Attending a reunion or visiting a place you haven't been to for a long time will open up new possibilities with someone from your past. Change is upon you. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Plan to have some fun or work toward a goal that is creative or will improve your living arrangements. Love is highlighted and romance should be scheduled into your busy day. A commitment or promise will make you happy. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Pay close attention to what transpires between you and the people you encounter. Friends, family and acquaintances may lead you astray intentionally. Don't shy away from the truth. Ask direct questions. It's better to know

than to appear naive. \*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A positive change to the way you are living is apparent. Put your skills to the test and you will land a position that is interesting, unusual and pays you what you are worth. A celebration will lead to love. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take care of legal or financial matters. The sooner you clear up any misconceptions, the better. Changing your living arrangements will allow you greater freedom to explore new interests. Someone from your past will surface. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take care of business. Contracts and agreements should be dealt with and put to rest. An important relationship can bring you closer to your goals. Ask questions if you don't know where you stand. Face facts and move forward. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You have charisma, charm and a individuality that will spark interest in others.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3		9					
5		3				1			6	
		6				2				
		2		7		8				
	1							4		
		9		5		3				
		7				5				
3		8				4			9	
			2	4						

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	1	9	5	7	2	8	6
8	7	5	2	6	1	4	9	3
6	2	9	8	3	4	1	7	5
1	6	3	4	8	2	7	5	9
5	9	4	7	1	3	8	6	2
7	8	2	6	9	5	3	4	1
4	1	6	3	7	9	5	2	8
2	5	8	1	4	6	9	3	7
9	3	7	5	2	8	6	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/29

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THINGS TO DO ON FAMILY DAY

Solution: 8 letters

D	S	F	R	E	H	T	A	G	M	I	W	S	P	C
E	E	A	R	M	P	L	A	N	R	U	O	T	O	O
C	D	M	D	I	R	P	A	I	N	T	S	S	H	O
O	A	I	O	V	E	A	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	Z
R	C	L	T	N	E	N	F	A	I	R	S	T	U	U
A	R	Y	R	E	S	N	D	K	S	P	A	N	S	M
T	A	E	A	K	C	T	T	S	H	O	W	O	T	B
E	R	K	I	A	D	O	R	U	K	O	O	C	N	A
Y	T	I	L	B	N	P	N	A	R	H	C	I	E	P
O	N	H	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	E	L	K	V	O
G	A	M	E	S	B	W	A	E	E	I	D	D	E	N
A	S	K	R	A	P	I	L	Z	L	R	O	I	R	Y
S	I	N	N	E	T	A	N	I	Z	S	T	N	R	E
C	I	S	U	M	E	E	T	G	N	N	F	I	S	H
G	N	I	X	A	L	E	R	H	O	G	O	I	N	G

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3/1

Adventure, Arcades, Bake, Bingo, Bond, Bowling, Concert, Contests, Cook, Decorate, Demonstrations, Events, Fairs, Family, Farm, Fish, Friends, Games, Gather, Going, Hike, Hockey, Jazz, Meet, Museum, Music, Naps, Paint, Parks, Path, Plan, Pony, Project, Relaxing, Ride, Shop, Show, Skating, Skiing, Sleep, Stories, Swim, Tennis, Theater, Tour, Trail, Trips, Yoga, Zoo, Zumba

Yesterday's Answer: Animated  
The NEW Treasury of Words will be available on e-readers by 3/1. Includes 500 words and phrases to find in today's puzzle. L&L Family Center, 1000 S. Hwy. 100, Suite 100, P.O. Box 100, Pahrump, NV 89049. (702) 735-1000. For more information, call 1-800-445-5400. Date of publication: Friday, March 1, 2013.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Without a trace

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# TRACE

WHATZIT? © 2013 www.whatzit.com  
Distributed by L1 Version 3.0 15 K

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

**LCD & Plasma TV Repair**  
**Samsung, Philips, Vizio**  
Call for more information  
**233-5641**  
Open: Monday-Saturday • 9:00AM-7:00PM

**QQ RENT A CAR**  
Starting as low as... **\$29.99**  
without Insurance  
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866  
\$100 Security Deposit Required  
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio  
Some conditions may apply

### WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

**Wanted** — Commercial cleaner for diving business on Rota. Five years experience, high school diploma, 2 letters of recommendation from former employers and police clearance required. Minimum salary. Call 532-3423 for interview.

**Double Luck Int'l Corp.**  
Tel. 234-3873  
Vacancy Announcement  
**Pet Shop Helper**  
3yrs experience required. Maintain water piping & water system. Knowledge in breeding gold fishes. Take care of animals, feed, clean, and arrange animal and poultry feed.  
Interested applicants please send resume to P.O. Box 502351CK Saipan, MP 96950

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE**  
**ACCOUNTANT**  
Submit resume to:  
**International Insurance Agency**  
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
Closing Date: March 4, 2013  
• (1) Business Operations Manager  
• (1) Sales/Accounting Clerk  
• (1) Air-con Technician  
Please send resume to  
**MANTRADE COMPANY INC.**  
P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950

**Wanted** — (1) Technician with knowledge and skill in the operation of a screw type oil press and the processing of oils from nuts. H.S. diploma and 2 years experience preferred. Salary: \$5.55-\$6.05/hr. Call Mt. Tapochau Farms at 285-5730 for more info.

**Medical Sales Representative**  
\$5.55 to \$ 8.00/hr  
**Qualifications:**  
• Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Pharmacy.  
• 1-year experience in sales and handling of medical supplies, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and reagents.  
• Able to prepare sales and budget reports, cost analysis and inventory reports.  
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills  
• Available to work during nights and weekends  
• Valid CNMI driver's license  
\*\*Applicants may be interviewed and tested.  
Email your applications to:  
medpharm@medpharmusa.net

**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
**1 - Building Maintenance Repairer**  
Salary: 5.55/hr  
Installs, maintains and repairs machinery, equipment, physical structures and pipe and electrical systems in Horiguchi Bldg using hand tools, power tools, hoist, crane and testing instruments and following specification blueprints, manuals and schematic diagrams by visual inspection and tests. Assist on other maintenance duties as assigned.  
Interested applicants may contact Fuji Pacific, Inc. at 234-0583 and ask for Nita San Nicolas or fax resume to 234-3605.

**VACANCY**  
**J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position**  
**COOK**  
Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe  
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

**HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL**  
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338  
TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX (670) 237-2529

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Open Date:** February 19, 2013  
**Close Date:** March 1, 2013

**Position:** (1) Supervisor, Reservation  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour  
**Job Qualification:** minimum AA Degree / College Graduated (2) Years Experience, Japanese Speaking.

**Position:** (5) Cook  
**Salary:** \$5.55 per hour  
**Job Qualification:** High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact  
Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.  
Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

**AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER**

**Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND**  
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**JVA 13-004**

**OPENING DATE: Immediately** **CLOSING DATE: Until Filled**

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salaries will be based on qualification and experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others** as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, by e-mail through the Fund Administrator; or the Fund's website at [www.nmiretirement.com](http://www.nmiretirement.com). **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA 13-004 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope. Please address your application submission to:**

**Lillian M. Pangelinan, Acting Administrator**  
NMI Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247  
Saipan, MP 96950-1247  
E-mail: [administrator01@nmiretirement.com](mailto:administrator01@nmiretirement.com)

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

### EMPLOYMENT

(2) Jewelry Appraiser - Must have 4/5 yrs experience in jewelry appraisal, honest & trustworthy. Must be familiar w/ Microsoft word, excel & peachtree. Applicants must mail resume w/ valid identifications, police clearance & previous employment certifications to PLATINUM INC. 326 PPP Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call Y and B Corporation dba Apartment and Space Rental at 433-5031.

1-Consultant. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni at 288-1168.

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni/Ukay-Ukay at 288-1168.

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni at 288-1168.

Cement Laborer - \$5.55/hr Cement handling equipment exp preferred. Apply at Hanson Micronesia Cement

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

**JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.**  
**IMMEDIATE JOB VACANCY**  
**One (1) AIR-CON/REF TECHNICIAN**

- Install, service and repair of ventilation, central air conditioning and refrigeration systems
- Perform, repair and trouble analysis of VAV and WT Control System and Electrical/Electronic Control Systems
- Repair and Service Chilled Water Air Conditioning system. Experience with turbocore compressors and control a plus.
- Specific work experience with Manitowoc Ice Machines, Taylor Ice Cream Machines, Walk-in Refrigeration System, and other food service equipment a plus
- EPA SECTION 608 AND R-410A Certified Required.

Application can be obtained from and submitted to JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.'s Office at Dotse Place, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan OR Email to: [tonys.jwssaipan@pticom.com](mailto:tonys.jwssaipan@pticom.com); or [jwssaipan@pticom.com](mailto:jwssaipan@pticom.com)

**American K&W Corporation**  
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
**(1) Cook - Chinese Cuisine**  
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 3 - 5 yrs exp.  
**(1) Maintenance Building Repairer**  
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 2 yrs exp.  
Interested applicants may call  
Yang Xia at 233-9468

**Job Vacancy Announcement****EXCHANGE CLERK**

- 1-2 yrs experience in Foreign Currency Exchange
- At least high school graduate

Please send resume to:  
**CNMI Currency Exchange Inc.**  
Fax No.: 234-5104

**Ocean Club, Inc. - Vacancy Announcement**

**(1) MANAGER-DIVING** Directs overall operation of business and related matters in diving activities and lodging. Directs and coordinates necessary workflow of a busy training facility. Requirement in management include ability to work in a distracting, fast-paced environment and adapt to changes; must possess excellent client / customer-service and interpersonal communication skills; must maintain meticulous record and files, and be computer literate (i.e. familiar with recent versions of Microsoft office and internet programs); basic understanding for concept of laws and regulations a plus. Requirement in diving instruction include ability to train scuba diving instructor candidates and CPR instructor candidates; teach sports and diving activities to individuals or groups by explaining and demonstrating principle techniques and movement of body, hands or feet to achieve proficiency in activities, explain and demonstrate the use of scuba diving by the standard of N.A.U.I., and guide and accompany them in diving tour, etc. Consulting knowledge and marketing skill for boat building a plus. Must be college graduate with at least 2 yrs. management experience in the diving field required, 5years preferred Must possess Certification (NAUI) as Dive Instructor for community (5-10yrs experience preferred), Specialty trainer (with minimum 2 yrs. experience and as CPR instructor for community First Aid and Safety. Certification as Course Director, a plus. Proficiency in Japanese language (both oral and written) critical. Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00pm, semi-monthly salary with housing provided. Interested applicants must submit a resume with supporting certification documents and police clearance in person to Ocean Club, Inc, or send via email at cnmi@live.com.

### Joe's Bar & Steak House Capital Job Vacancy Announcement

**WAITRESS (3)****Qualifications:**

- High School graduate or equivalent with at least minimum of 3 years experience in bar operation.
- With good customer service and strong communication skills required.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Ability to speak Japanese and Chinese is a plus.

**COOK (2)****Qualifications:**

- High School graduate or equivalent with at least a minimum of 5 years experience in preparation of Steak and International cuisine.
- Must possess an excellent hygiene and cleanliness to work station.
- Fast and efficient worker.
- Must be knowledgeable in marketing of foods and supplies.
- Able to work flexible hours.

Applications may be obtained at Joe's Bar & Steakhouse Capital's office located in Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Application deadline is March 6, 2013, NLT 5:00 p.m.

Background check is required.

For more information, please contact 233-5367.

*Joe's Bar & Steak House Capital is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.****(01) BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR**

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or application to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please contact Judy Arriola a 234-2903 ext 124.

## S P O R T S

# Knicks overcome Curry's 54 to beat Warriors



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 35 points, J.R. Smith hit the tiebreaking shot with 1:10 left, and the New York Knicks overcame Stephen Curry's NBA season-high 54 points to beat the Golden State Warriors 109-105 on Wednesday night.

Curry was 18 of 28 from the field, finishing one shy of the NBA record with 11 3-pointers. The Knicks finally stopped him with 1:28 to play when Raymond Felton blocked his shot with the score tied at 105. That led to a jumper by Smith, who finished with 26 points. Anthony followed with another basket and the Knicks hung on to spoil former Knicks star and Warriors coach Mark Jackson's homecoming.

It was the most points by an NBA player in a loss since Kobe Bryant had 58 in a loss to Charlotte on Dec. 29, 2006.

Curry finished with seven assists and six rebounds while passing his previous career best of 42 points, and Kevin Durant's 52-point performance that had been the best in the NBA this season. But he had little help without All-Star forward David Lee, who was suspended one game for his role in an altercation Tuesday night in Indiana.

Tyson Chandler had 16 points and a career-best 28 rebounds for the Knicks, who won their second straight after a season-high, four-game losing streak.

**Thunder 119, Hornets 74**

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 29 points, Kevin Durant recorded his third career triple-double and the Oklahoma City Thunder finished a perfect three-game homestand by routing the short-handed New Orleans Hornets.

Durant had 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as Oklahoma City finished a dominant four-game sweep of the season series against New Orleans, which was without starters Anthony Davis (shoulder) and Eric Gordon (knee). The Thunder led by at least 29 in three of the four meetings this season.

Ryan Anderson started in place of Davis and led New Orleans with 14 points.

**Suns 105, Spurs 101**

In San Antonio, Jermaine O'Neal had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Wesley Johnson hit a 3-pointer at the end of regulation to force overtime and the Phoenix Suns beat San Antonio to snap the Spurs' 18-game home winning streak.

Luis Scola added 15 points and Goran Dragic had 13 points and 13 assists for Phoenix, which ended a six-game losing streak against San Antonio.

Tony Parker had 22 points to lead the Spurs, who had not lost at home since Nov. 19 against the Los Angeles Clippers. San



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, center, shoots over New York Knicks' Raymond Felton, left, and Amare Stoudemire, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, in New York. Curry scored 54 points.

Antonio went 0 for 10 in overtime, its only points in the extra period coming when Parker made 1 of 2 free throws.

**Grizzlies 90, Mavericks 84**

In Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph scored 22 points and Marc Gasol added 21 as the Memphis Grizzlies matched their largest comeback in franchise history, rallying to beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Quincy Pondexter finished with 12 and Austin Daye added 10, all in the first half, for Memphis, which trailed by 25 points in the second quarter but stormed back to win its eighth straight. Gasol had 12 rebounds and Randolph 10 as Memphis outrebounded Dallas 46-34.

The comeback matched a 25-point winning rally at Portland on March 25, 2002.

**Cavaliers 103, Raptors 92**

In Cleveland, rookie Dion Waiters scored 23 points, Shaun Livingston added 15 and the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a horrendous start and playing without injured All-Star Kyrie Irving for the second straight game, beating the Toronto Raptors.

The Cavs made only one of their first 15 shots, but recovered and finished February at 7-5, their first winning month since March 2010, when LeBron James was still around.

Tristan Thompson scored 14, Wayne Ellington added 13 and Luke Walton had seven rebounds and seven assists for the Cavs, who closed with a 10-2 run.

**Pistons 96, Wizards 95**

In Washington, Brandon Knight returned from a right knee injury to score a career-high 32 points, Greg Monroe added 26 points and 11 rebounds on the court where he played college home games for Georgetown, Jose Calderon finished with 18 assists, and Detroit escaped with a victory over Washington.

The Pistons have won six games in a row over the Wizards, and 14 of their past 16 meetings. And Wednesday's result represented a reversal of fortunes for both clubs: Detroit had lost three straight games; Washington had won three straight.

**Kings 125, Magic 101**

In Orlando, Florida, John Salmons had 21 points to lead six players in double-figures and the hot-shooting Sacramento Kings cruised past the Orlando Magic.

The Kings were coming off a double-overtime loss to Miami on Tuesday, but showed few signs of a hangover, knocking down 10 3-pointers. Reserve Marcus Thornton added 20 points.

The win ends a six-game losing streak and snaps a string of nine consecutive road losses. It also marks the Kings' first season sweep of the Magic in nine years.

Tobias Harris led the Magic with 23 points, followed by Aron Afflalo with 15.

Orlando has lost 29 of its last 33 games and hasn't won back-to-back games since mid-December.

**Bucks 110, Rockets 107**

In Houston, Monta Ellis sank an off-balance 3-pointer just before the final buzzer to give the Milwaukee Bucks a victory over the Houston Rockets.

Ellis scored 27 points and handed out 13 assists, Ersan Ilyasova added 20 points and the Bucks won in Houston for the second straight season.

The Bucks went down to the wire again after beating Dallas 95-90 on Tuesday and losing their previous three games by no more than three points. Ellis took a pass from Brandon Jennings and heaved a shot off one foot as time was winding down. The referees watched a replay and ruled that Ellis shot it in time.

James Harden scored 25 and Omer Asik grabbed a career-high 22 rebounds for Houston.

**Hawks 102, Jazz 91**

In Salt Lake City, Al Horford scored 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, while Josh Smith added 24 points 14 rebounds to help the Atlanta Hawks hold off a fourth-quarter rally by the Utah Jazz.

Al Jefferson led Utah with 26 points and 11 rebounds, while Derrick Favors had 17 points and 15 rebounds. It wasn't enough to prevent the Jazz from losing their second straight home game and third straight contest overall.

Atlanta took control when the Jazz opened the second half by missing their first eight shots. The Hawks went on a 10-2 run and took a 66-50 lead on a pair of free throws by Horford.

**Nuggets 111, Trail Blazers 109**

In Portland, Oregon, Andre Miller scored the go-ahead layup with 24.9 seconds left against his former team and the Denver Nuggets held off the Portland Trail Blazers for their third straight victory.

After rookie Damian Lillard put the Blazers back up 101-100 with a layup, Andre Iguodala and Lawson gave Denver a 106-101 lead. Wesley Matthews answered with a 3-pointer and LaMarcus Aldridge added a turnaround jumper that tied it at 106 with 33.8 seconds left. But Miller's scoop under the basket gave the Nuggets back the lead, and Aldridge missed a jumper on the other end with 14 seconds left. Lillard made a 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left, but the Blazers fell short and Miller, who played for the Blazers from 2009-11, made free throws for the final margin.

Lawson finished with 30 points and Iguodala matched his season high with 29 for the Nuggets, who snapped a six-game losing streak at the Rose Garden.

Lillard led Portland with 26 points and J.J. Hickson had his 31st double-double of the season with 18 points and 14 rebounds.

# Source: 49ers to send Smith to KC



**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Alex Smith quietly stayed behind the scenes after losing his job and watched from the sideline as San Francisco returned to the Super Bowl for the first time in 18 years. Yet the No. 1 overall draft pick from 2005 did make one thing known: The veteran quarterback still considers himself a starter.

And he hoped to get that chance again. Now, he appears to have it.

The Kansas City Chiefs have agreed to acquire Smith from the 49ers in the first major acquisition since Andy Reid took over as the team's new coach in early January, a person with knowledge of the trade told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot become official until March 12, when the NFL's new business year begins. Another person familiar with the swap said the 49ers will get a second-round pick in April's draft, No. 34 overall, and a conditional pick in the 2014 draft.

After spending his first eight up-and-down years with the 49ers, Smith will get a welcome new start. The Chiefs will get the proven play-caller they hope can help turn things around under a new coach much the way Smith did under Jim Harbaugh in San Francisco.

"You never know when your opportunity's going to come," Smith said late in the season. "The good ones are ready when they do come."



In this Oct. 18, 2012 file photo, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Alex Smith (11) passes against the Seattle Seahawks during the second quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco.

The Chiefs have gone this route before, acquiring Joe Montana from the 49ers nearly 20 years ago, in April 1993, after he won four Super Bowls but gave way to Steve Young—San Francisco's quarterback of the future.

Not so different from Smith's situation last season behind second-year QB Colin Kaepernick.

Moving Smith was hardly unexpected. He realized it once Kaepernick emerged as a capable starter over the season's final two months, and Smith all but said goodbye with his first pro team when he played briefly in the regular-season finale against

Arizona to cheers of "Let's Go, Alex!" and "Alex! Alex!" from the Candlestick Park crowd.

With Smith now headed for Kansas City, Matt Cassel is likely headed out of town. And Reid will enter his first draft as Chiefs coach in April no longer needing to search for a quarterback.

The Chiefs' problems at quarterback are the single biggest reason they went 2-14 last season and secured the No. 1 pick in the draft for the first time in franchise history.

It's been a long-running problem for a franchise that has tried Steve Bono and El-

vis Grbac (two more one-time 49ers), and more recently Damon Huard, Tyler Thigpen and Tyler Palko at quarterback. And then there's Cassel.

He was acquired by recently fired general manager Scott Pioli, and has two years left on a \$63 million, six-year deal. He will likely be cut once Smith is acquired.

Cassel was benched last season in favor of Brady Quinn, who also is a free agent after going 1-7 as the starter.

If Smith can bring the steady form that defined his last two years, the Chiefs might be able

to establish a much-needed consistency under center. They also found themselves a team-first player who led the 49ers through workouts during the 2011 lockout.

Under the three-year contract he signed last March, Smith is guaranteed \$8.5 million in base salary for the 2013 season.

Smith thrived under 49ers coach and former NFL quarterback Harbaugh in one-plus season as the starter. Then, just like that, it all changed after he sustained a concussion.

Last week at the NFL combine, Harbaugh praised Smith and reiterated just how strong San Francisco was with Colin Kaepernick as the starter and someone with Smith's credentials at backup.

Yet everyone knew it was likely the 49ers would do their best to improve Smith's situation considering all he did for the franchise for nearly the past decade.

"Alex is really playing the best football of his career the last two years," Harbaugh said. "We think we got the best quarterback situation in the National Football League, feel strongly about that. Again, that'll be a process that plays out. Alex Smith continuing to be a 49er or if a trade occurs in the next weeks or months. Those are the two possibilities, most likely possibilities."

Smith acknowledged when he lost the job to Kaepernick back in November that he had done nothing wrong but get hurt. Not only had he completed 26 of his previous 28 passes—18 of 19 for 232 yards and three touch-

downs without an interception and a 157.1 passer rating in a Monday Night Football win at Arizona on Oct. 29—Smith had just earned NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors after that victory in the desert.

He then sustained a concussion in the second quarter of a 24-24 tie against St. Louis on Nov. 11—saying later he threw a touchdown pass with blurry vision. Smith sat out the next game as Kaepernick dazzled in his debut as an NFL starter, beating the Bears handily at home on Monday Night Football.

After that, Harbaugh vowed to stick with the "hot hand," as he regularly put it, while complicating matters by still referring to Smith as a starter.

Smith's most poignant response to the situation was, "I feel like the only thing I did to lose my job was get a concussion."

Kaepernick led the 49ers to the NFC championship and a 34-31 loss to Baltimore in the Super Bowl in his second season. Now the 49ers are looking for his backup.

The 28-year-old Smith struggled for most of his career in San Francisco, plagued as much by coaching and constant coordinator changes as by his own indecisiveness. But when Harbaugh became coach in January 2011, Smith blossomed under the former QB's guidance. He was among the league leaders in passer rating (104.1) with a 70.2 completion percentage when he got hurt last season.

Fox Sports first reported the deal Wednesday.

## NFL BRIEFS

### NFL checks possible improper questions at combine

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The NFL says it will look into whether questions asked of Colorado tight end Nick Kasa at the combine violated any laws or league policies banning employers from inquiring about a possible employee's sexual orientation. Kasa told ESPN Radio in Denver that during interviews with team officials at the combine in Indianapolis: "(Teams) ask you, like, 'Do you have a girlfriend?' 'Are you married?' 'Do you like girls?'" He did not identify who asked him such questions. On Wednesday, Kasa said on the "Dan Patrick Show" he didn't think it "was really a serious question." The NFL says it will look into Kasa's comments and that "any team or employee that inquires about impermissible subjects or makes an employment decision based on such factors is subject to league discipline." DeMaurice Smith, the head of the NFL players association, said in a statement: "I know that the NFL agrees that these types of questions violate the law, our CBA and

player rights. I hope that they will seek out information as to what teams have engaged in this type of discrimination and we should then discuss appropriate discipline."

### Brady's reworked deal helps Patriots

So Tom Brady got a contract extension. Big deal. Well, yeah—for the three-time Super Bowl winner and for the Patriots. There's nothing unusual about one of the game's best quarterbacks and leaders being coveted by his team. Or being rewarded. What's rare is how well the three-year extension works for both Brady and for New England. The two-time NFL Most Valuable Player did not really take a pay cut with this new deal. It might sound that way with salaries of \$7 million in 2015, \$8 million the next year and \$9 million in 2017, far below the going rate for superstar QBs. But Brady gets a \$30 million signing bonus and \$57 million overall in a contract that will run through the 2017 season. And New England gets space under the salary cap to spend on top free agents. (AP)

## Saban: 4 arrested Bama players dismissed from team



**TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)**—Four players for

two-time defending national champion Alabama have been dismissed from school following their arrests after two robberies on campus.

University spokeswoman Deborah Lane said Wednesday that linebackers D.J. Pettway and Tyler Hayes, safety Eddie Williams and H-back Brent Calloway are no longer enrolled after a judicial review.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban had earlier said the players "are no longer associated with the football program."

"Their actions do not reflect the spirit and character that we want our organization to reflect," Saban said. "It's obviously very disappointing and unacceptable what happened."

"I also think I'm really proud over the last five years that our team has done a very good job with their personal responsibility and how they've represented the university. Some people learn by words, some people learn by consequences, some people can't learn."



In a Jan. 8, 2013 file photo Alabama head coach Nick Saban poses with The Coaches' Trophy during a BCS National Championship college football game news conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Pettway, Williams and Hayes are charged with two counts of second-degree robbery. Williams and Calloway, who was not accused in the robberies, are charged with fraudulent use of a credit card.

Williams confessed to robbing a student who was punched in the head and face and kicked in the ribs and back. He said Pettway and Hayes watched him commit another robbery from a nearby vehicle about an

hour later, according to court documents.

Hayes, 18, admitted to participating in the first robbery and watching the second, court documents said.

Williams and Calloway, both 20, are scheduled for preliminary hearings on March 19 in Tuscaloosa District Court.

Those two and 18-year-old Pettway have requested youth-offender status.

The first student reported

having his Apple Macbook Pro stolen from his backpack. Both sustained mild concussions, cuts on the face and heavy swelling, and had items stolen, according to court documents.

All four players were backups last season for Alabama, which has won three of the past four BCS titles. Williams didn't play in 2012, but he was one of the nation's top prospects the previous year and moved from receiver to safety.

Saban also updated the status of four other players regarding injury or suspension.

Cornerback John Fulton and wide receiver Kevin Norwood are not participating in off-season conditioning workouts with turf toe injuries. Saban said both are uncertain for spring practice.

Saban said Fulton had surgery after the season and the recovery time is typically about three months. Alabama opens spring practice on March 16.

He said receiver Marvin Shinn has left the team and fellow receiver Danny Woodson is suspended for violating team rules and won't participate in spring practice.

# Americans try to reach WBC title game at last



**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Ryan Vogelsong has a little running joke that he is going to plunk San Francisco teammate Pablo Sandoval in the World Baseball Classic to keep the Panda from a three-homer game like the one he produced in Game 1 of the World Series last fall.

Sandoval plans to play nice once he pulls on the Venezuela uniform.

"He's my teammate, I don't want to fight," Sandoval said with a smile.

Both know the team to beat: Two-time WBC winner Japan.

Joe Torre is returning to the top step of the dugout to manage the Americans, who have yet to even reach the championship game of this hugely popular international event.

Team USA has plenty of motivation to make up for two poor showings in this tournament. The Americans didn't get out of the second round in 2009, then lost in the semifinals to Japan three years later. Now, they are making plans to reach the semifinals and final at San Francisco's AT&T Park.

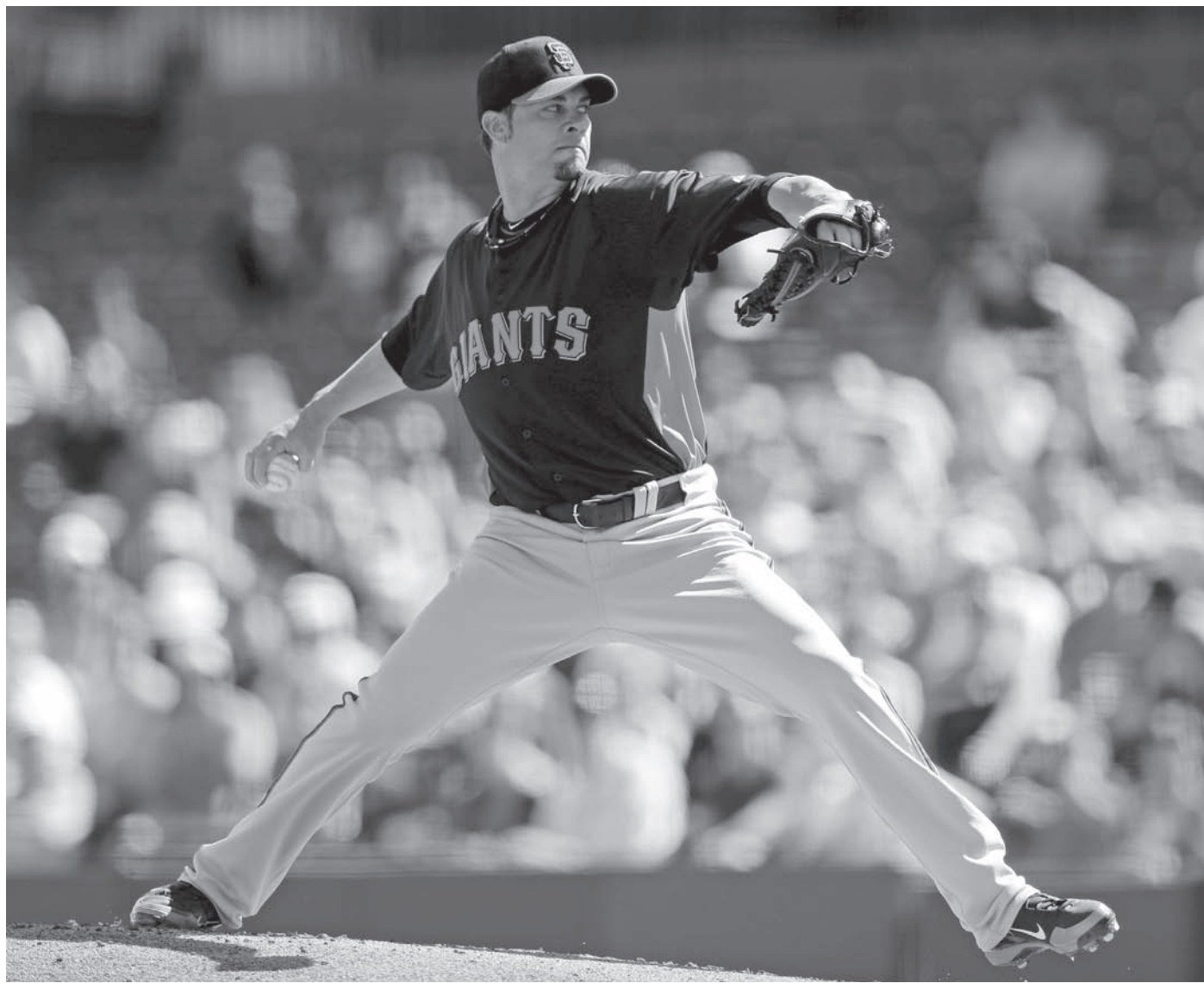
"We'll probably be disappointed if we don't make it to San Francisco," said Vogelsong, slated to be the No. 2 starter in the U.S. rotation. "First and foremost, we're focused on getting there."

The Japanese topped Cuba in the inaugural Classic in 2006, then South Korea three years later. Japan is known for its rigorous spring trainings, which typically begin a couple of weeks before the major league clubs and feature all-day workouts with just a short break to eat.

"It's such a dedicated group of players. I go back to going over to Japan as a member of the Mets back in '74 and just noticing and at that time I didn't think necessarily that the Japanese could play at our level, maybe stature-wise," Torre recalled. "Even though their game was clean and disciplined, it just didn't look like they were as good as we were. That's certainly has changed."

Rockies slugger Carlos Gonzalez will play alongside Sandoval for Venezuela. The World Series champion Giants have had to plan carefully this spring to get through the Cactus League with much of their roster headed to the WBC—Marco Scutaro on Venezuela, Angel Pagan and Andres Torres on Puerto Rico, Vogelsong and reliever Jeremy Affeldt on the U.S. team, closer Sergio Romo pitching for Mexico.

"It's my first time representing and I'm really looking forward to doing it," Pagan said. "The first two Classics I couldn't do it because I was either trying to make a team or I was trying to be the everyday player. It fills my heart to go out there and play in front of my



San Francisco Giants' Ryan Vogelsong throws during the first inning of an exhibition spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, in Tempe, Ariz.

countrymen and in front of my family. I did it when I played in New York and Puerto Rico but it's not the same when you're wearing the P.R. jersey. It's going to be a little different, and I'm ready."

And CarGo sure is confident in Venezuela's chances.

"I don't think we need practice—Venezuela doesn't need practice," he said. "Japan, they train together for a long time

and get prepared for that. We don't really get prepared for that, we all focus on our teams. 'OK, you've got to go play for your country.' We're all going to be blind, put the uniform on, let's play."

Many players are torn between playing for their country or playing for the club that signs their paycheck—especially those who might be on the bubble of making the roster or earn-

ing a starting job.

Gonzalez said the Venezuelans feel tremendous pressure to take part in the Classic, yet he understands why Seattle ace Felix Hernandez has passed after signing a \$175 million, seven-year contract earlier this month that made him the highest-paid pitcher in baseball.

"You have to represent your team," Gonzalez said. "You see all the news about King Felix

not playing for Venezuela and the whole country changes, they get upset that you're not going to play for your country. They think it's all about the money but, you know what, we've been working since we were 16 years old and we came from Venezuela to represent. Especially King Felix, he's been playing since he was 16 with Seattle. He's a franchise player who was about to sign the biggest contract. It's

crazy how people feel bad about it. He has to think about his future, he has to think about his family. I think made the right choice."

The inaugural 2006 Classic featured a pool-play format, while 2009 was double-elimination—and this one will be a combination of both. The first round will be pool play, with the top two teams advancing. The second round is double-elimination, and the top two teams will reach the semifinals.

The Americans will play their round-robin games at the Arizona Diamondbacks' Chase Field in Phoenix.

"I'm not sure that our players weren't excited," Torre said of the previous two WBC tournaments. "The guys who have played this before were excited to get back to it. I think it's still something to get a little used to. Let's admit it, you play the USA team, MLB, even though there are a number of MLB players obviously playing for other countries, it's like putting on your Sunday best, you know, 'We're excited because we have a chance to beat them at their own game' so to speak."

Semifinals will be played March 17-18, with the championship March 19 in the Giants' waterfront ballpark.

That's where Sandoval cleared the fences three times in a Game 1 World Series win against the Tigers.

The guy known as Kung Fu Panda hopes to find his groove again for his country.

"I'm trying to get the Triple Crown," Sandoval said of the World Series, Venezuelan championship and World Baseball Classic.

Even if it does mean he gets hit by Vogelsong along the way.

## Pistorius representatives name substance found

**JOHANNESBURG** (AP)—The substance found in Oscar Pistorius' bedroom after the shooting death of his girlfriend was identified by his representatives Wednesday as Testis compositum—an herbal remedy they said is used for "muscle recovery." A product by that name also is sold as a sexual enhancer.

Testis compositum is marketed by some online retailers in both oral and injectable forms as a testosterone booster and sexual performance aid that contains the testicles, heart and embryo of pigs, among other ingredients. Some online retailers also say it can be used to treat fatigue.

At the Paralympian's bail hearing last week in the shooting death of Reeva Steenkamp, police said they found needles in Pistorius' bedroom along with the substance, which a detective initially named in court as testosterone. Prosecutors later withdrew that statement identifying the substance and said it

had been sent for lab tests and couldn't be named until those tests were completed.

Pistorius spokeswoman Lunice Johnston said in an email to The Associated Press that the athlete's lawyers had confirmed that the substance is Testis compositum.

In the email, Johnston wrote that the product was being used "in aid of muscle recovery." She did not say whether the substance was the same as the product that is sold as a sex enhancer.

In court, Pistorius defense lawyer Barry Roux said the substance was not banned by sports authorities.

The World Anti-Doping Agency said its science department had already been made aware of the substance and that it wasn't banned.

"It would appear to be a homeopathic treatment, and these treatments are not prohibited by the list," WADA said in a statement to the AP.

Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the International Olympic Com-

mittee's medical commission, told the AP he had not heard of the product but that it sounded like "a real cocktail, all pointing in the same direction, namely having something to do with testosterone."

"This sounds to me like something that needs to be analyzed in order to make sure what it is," Ljungqvist said in a phone interview. "You cannot ban something simply on claims and names. It needs to be looked into. Even saying that it is testosterone boosting, it could contain some precursors. It needs to have some analysis."

Pieter Van Der Merwe, director of South Africa's Doping Control Laboratory in Bloemfontein, declined to comment on whether a sample from Pistorius had been sent to that laboratory for testing.

Pistorius was charged with premeditated murder in the Valentine's Day shooting death of Steenkamp. He says he shot her by accident after mistaking

her for an intruder in his home. Prosecutors allege he intended to kill her.

Police took Pistorius for a medical examination when he was arrested on Feb. 14, which included blood-alcohol tests, they said. The substance found in his bedroom was also being tested by police, who haven't released results.

Pistorius, a multiple Paralympic champion, underwent two doping tests in London last year around the Paralympics, the International Paralympic Committee has said. He tested negative for any banned substances in both tests in August and September.

A product called Testis compositum is made by Biologische Heilmittel Heel GmbH, based in Baden-Baden, Germany. The company website says it is one of the world's leading makers of homeopathic combination medications.

A U.S. subsidiary, Heel USA Inc., advertises the product in

tablet form only and spokeswoman Joan Sullivan said she didn't know if injectable versions are sold in other countries. Heel USA's website says the product provides temporary relief for men's "sexual weakness" and lack of stamina.

The U.S.-sold tablets contain 23 ingredients, including pig testicles, pig heart, pig embryo and pig adrenal gland, cortisone, ginseng and other botanicals. It also contains several minerals, according to a list Sullivan provided.

Charles Yesalis, a Penn State professor emeritus and expert on steroid use in sports, said animal steroids likely wouldn't have an athletic performance-enhancing effect unless taken in huge quantities. Even so, he said many elite athletes would be wary of using such supplements because they can be laced with banned substances and few would want to risk it.

The company website listed a South African subsidiary as ModHomCo (Pty) Ltd., based in Centurion, near Pretoria. That company couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

# Odds favor Donaire vs Rigondeaux

**BOXING** As expected, Nonito Donaire Jr. came out an overwhelming odds-on favorite as betting lines opened for

his world super bantamweight fight against Cuban Guillermo Rigondeaux on April 13 at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Sports betting site oddschecker.com listed the 30-year-old consensus Fighter of the Year for 2012 as a 10-1 favorite in the fight

where he stakes his WBO belt and go for Rigondeaux's WBA version of it. That means a \$100 bet on Donaire (31-1-0 with 20 knockouts)

## FALCONS

From Page 32

Laolao Bay Golf Resort (0-1), McDonald's of Saipan (0-1), Joeten Motors' Kagman Ford Rangers (0-2), Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha's Store's Survivors (0-2), Rep. Christopher Deleon Guerrero As Matuis Twins (0-2), and IT&E (0-3) make up the rest of the 16-team Major Division field.

A number matches have also been put on hold due to weather and sunlight restraints. Among these include Tuesday's afternoon match that left McDonald's and the Rockies in a 7-up deadlock in the top of the seventh inning; last Sunday's chess match between Comets II and the Braves who left off tied at 3-all in the top of the ninth; Feb. 21's meeting between Laolao Bay and the Red Sox that was suspended tied at 7-apiece in the top of the seventh; and Feb. 19's match where the Survivors were leading the Jets, 4-3, in the bottom of the third inning.

The Ol'Aces take on Laolao Bay at noon tomorrow followed at 3pm with the Rangers against the Twins.

Then on Sunday the Rockies line up across the Braves at 9am followed at noon with McDonald's against the Survivors, before finishing with the Red Sox versus the Enforcers at 3pm.

## SUNDAY Comets II 23, Ford Rangers 0

Comets II pitchers Ignacio Men-

diola and Jesse Taitano gave up just one hit in three innings as the group flexed its muscle at the plate.

They also showed keen skills around the bases as they racked up 12 runs in the very first inning and followed it up with another hefty discharge for 10 more runs all off just 12 hits.

The Rangers wore themselves out in a way as well and were charged with 10 errors in the game.

Comets II added its final run in the top of the third and received the nod via mercy rule for holding at least a 15-run lead after three complete innings.

Taitano awed the crowd with a home run and a double for three RBIs and reached base eight times in the game.

Clarence Cabrera touched base five times, stole a base, and picked up an RBI along with fellow teammates Rled and Dennis Teregeyo.

## Little Legals 15, Survivors 0

The Little Legals started off well and moved around three runs in the first inning and they later erupted for 12 runs in the third frame for a decisive win.

The Survivors were stuck with just one hit in the game.

The Little Legals showed a lot of hustle and produced its offense with six hits and aggressive base running. They stole seven bases in the game as a team.

Gloyd Martin pulled around on two triples and a double for three RBIs and a stolen base. He

touched base eight times.

## SATURDAY Falcons 12, Twins 1

The Falcons efficiently manufactured five runs in both the first and second innings and threatened haunts of an early decision by the third with another pair of runs.

The Twins were kept in check by Falcons pitcher Max Pangelinan, who only allowed one runner to the plate in the second inning, off three hits, and a hit batter, through four frames. He threw 36 strikes in 50 pitches for seven strikeouts.

The Falcons did its damage off seven hits and received help from five errors that came due to some early jitters by the Twins.

Falcons' Jester Kintaro logged two RBIs, while Aven Evangelista and Pangelinan each bagged one apiece. In total nine quality at bats were recorded by the whole dugout.

## Ol'Aces 16, JPO Enforcers 3

It was a close match that started off, 3-1, in favor of Ol'Aces and remained as such until the start of the fifth inning.

Ol'Aces added a run in the top of the third frame, but the Enforcers quickly got it back in the bottom of the fourth when all of a sudden the former band hammered up a dozen runs in the ensuing exchange to march off with the win.

The Enforcers were only able to come up with one run in response and succumbed via the

mercy rule.

Ol'Aces bashed eight hits in total compared to its opponent's three and committed just on error in the game.

Kimo Angailen and Tyrese Camacho logged two hits. Angailen also stole home, while Camacho, and Tyler Flores each collected two RBIs.

Ol'Aces pitchers Roman Reyes and Camacho combine for nine strikeouts. Enforcers starter Shakobe Rangamar racked up eight strikeouts through 3 2/3 innings.

## Jets 20, IT&E 9

The Jets worked out a 3-2 edge in the opening frame and though IT&E went on to double them up briefly in he next three frames, the former caught a late wave that carried into the fifth inning and ultimately to a run-rule victory.

IT&E tied the match with a run in the top of the third inning and added two more in the third to claim the lead, 5-2.

Then they added one more run in the top of the fourth after which the Jets got its engine to turn over.

The Jets mustered up six runs in the bottom frame to reclaim control, 9-6.

IT&E would manage to knot it up again with three runs in the top of the fifth inning, but the Jets took off in the bottom side and never looked back, scoring 11 runs en route to the win.

IT&E outhit the Jets, 9-8, but also committed six errors out on the field to the Jets' five.

ous. The electrified fences on high walls around homes tell you that. Pistorius isn't the only South African to be armed. Nor is he the only 26-year-old who has professed to liking powerful motorbikes and driving at speed. Does that make him reckless, as some now suggest? Maybe. It certainly doesn't prove that he would commit murder.

Athletes often make poor role models. The sporting hall of infamy, the likes of Lance Armstrong, O.J. Simpson and Tiger Woods, long ago told us that.

Like most of us, star athletes don't broadcast if they beat their partners, abuse their kids, have substance problems, cheat, lie or are pathological. Unlike most of us, they also have sponsors who watch their backs and cover their tracks, PR agents who massage the message and lawyers to keep any ugly truth from getting out. So it always is a bigger shock when a carefully packaged athlete turns out to have been a rat or worse.

Pistorius was a carefully packaged athlete, with a story he told well.

What else he may also have been isn't yet clear.

wins just \$10.

It also listed Rigondeaux (11-0-0 with eight KOs) a 2-1 underdog, which means a \$100 bet on the 32-year-old two-time Olympic gold medalist wins \$200.

Lines and odds are expected to change as fight night draws nearer. The rivalry has started simmering online, marked by lengthy accusations between the two camps mainly on the issue of performance-enhancing drugs.

Rigondeaux, who boasts more than 400 fights in the amateur ranks but is largely untested in the pro level, was seen getting blood extractions from pictures posted by his handler Caribe Promotions' Twitter account.

## PALESTINE

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among the group during the 2012 AFC Challenge Cup, placing fourth behind the Philippines, Turkmenistan, and North Korea, and its Palestine Football Association was the recipient of the inaugural and prestigious FIFA Development Award.

"Definitely, Palestine is the team to beat in our group," CNMI goalkeeper Johann Noetzel said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week before they left for Nepal to compete in the AFC event for the first time.

"They are physically strong and majority of the members of the team are playing in competitive pro leagues in the Middle East," Noetzel added.

One of the pros on the tough Palestine roster is forward Ashraf Nu'man, who plays for Al-Faisaly (Amman) in the Jordan League and scored eight goals last season. A story posted on Nepal's football website mentioned Nu'man, as the player to watch in the Group D qualifier after the 26-year-old player scored a hat-trick in Palestine's friendly match against India early last month.

"We will be facing a big task when we meet Palestine

Caribe CEO Boris Arencibia, whose outfit co-promotes the fight with Top Rank, also issued a statement denying that they have any links with Angel Heredia, whose alleged involvement with PEDs put a question on Juan Manuel Marquez's muscle mass and strength.

In an article that came out in boxingscene.com, Arencibia said Rigondeaux will instead keep himself busy training in Boca Raton and Delray Beach in Florida until April 7.

Donaire, meanwhile, plunged into training with Robert Garcia, who earlier said his ward will be "too big, too strong and should have no problem" dealing with Rigondeaux. **(PDI)**

in our second game and I hope our longer training preparation and fitter condition will be enough to give Palestine a good fight," Noetzel added.

## Leveling up

Meanwhile, the CNMI's debut in the AFC Challenge Cup qualifier against Nepal at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu tomorrow has been moved to an earlier time, from 5:30pm to 5:05 (past 9pm Saipan time).

The Blue Ayuyus in an earlier interview with their players and coaches are positive against their chance against Nepal and are aiming to put on a good show in their debut in the AFC men's competition.

"We have to show our competitors in the region that we can play at their level," coach Luam Khen Koo said.

"This is it. This is what we have been working hard since NMIFA was established in 2005. We've gone a long way, starting as a bunch of guys looking to play other sports. Then we became more competitive and have soccer as our No. 1 sport. It's time to experience this high level competition and show them we have skills and talents to keep up with these top teams," long-time CNMI team member Steve McKagan said last week during the squad's send-off dinner.

## PISTORIUS

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and we want them immediately.

We want to know not only the facts but what they mean, for us and the wider world. The first reaction is often shock. Then the questions: Does this mean we should also toss out everything we thought we knew about this person? If they were wrong'uns, was it also wrong to cheer for them, take pleasure in what they did and even be inspired by it?

In short, when our stars fall off the pedestals we build for them, we want to know not only whether we should burn their biographies, wristbands and commemorative T-shirts but also erase from our minds absolutely everything they said, did and supposedly stood for.

At the most basic level, one idea Pistorius promoted with his running was that facts speak for themselves.

Fact: A man whose lower legs were amputated when he was 11 months old can compete at the Olympics.

Fact: Pistorius changed attitudes when he made history at

the London Games.

Fact: With each click-click of his prosthetic limbs on the track, he proved how wrong we can be when we make assumptions about people, when we try to guess what they are and aren't capable of.

Those are valuable lessons, especially now, when the lack of complete facts and pressure of so many questions can quickly lead to bum conclusions and answers.

Certainly, if Pistorius is found guilty of murdering Reeva Steenkamp, the lessons from London will not survive. Everything he achieved on the track would be rendered secondary. Police said Steenkamp was shot four times in Pistorius' villa Thursday. Prosecutor Gerrie Nel said in court he would pursue a charge of premeditated murder.

And if the charge doesn't stick? If there is another explanation? If, say, it was somehow an accident? How might we feel then? Too early to say.

His family issued a statement that said "the alleged murder is disputed in the strongest terms"—whatever that means.

A police spokeswoman, Brigadier Denise Beukes, said there previously were "allegations of a domestic nature" and "incidents"—whatever that means—at Pistorius' home.

"I'm not going to elaborate on it," Beukes said.

Too many questions and no answers. That shouldn't become an excuse to now speculate. It seemed inappropriate to be discussing matters so sad in 140 characters or less. But an ex-girlfriend of Pistorius made an important point on Twitter.

"All I am saying is let him speak, let his side be heard without jumping to conclusions," Jenna Edkins wrote.

Pistorius is in custody. We have not heard explanations from him. Instead, we're hearing from others, including journalists who spent time with him.

One wrote this week that Pistorius had "a sinister-looking machine gun" in his house. That isn't what the journalist wrote at the time of his visit in 2011. Then, it was simply "a machine gun." Already, the Pistorius narrative is being rewritten, when the full story is not yet known.

South Africa can be danger-

the B class, 21-14, 21-13; Lani Bartolome survived Jen Savellano in A class, 21-20, 20-21, 21-19; and Jen Cardinio and Janelle Pangelinan won over Cristely Villafior, 18-21, 21-19, 21-14, and Marlyn Montano, 21-16, 21-11, respectively in B class.

Still in the women's competition, doubles A teammates Alma Ortega and Hannah Choi swept the mother-and-daughter duo of Loida and Angie Ito, 21-16, 21-5, while Savellano and Chris Obaldo had a similar two-game win versus Tolentino and Villafior in the D division, 21-20, 21-17. Dinae and Jenny Francisco recorded the third victory via sweep in the women's doubles after topping Roxe Lazaro and Lani Santos in C class, 21-20, 21-18.

# Tight competition in U18 league

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



The boys U18 competition in the 2013 NMI-

FA Spring Youth League is pretty intense as none of the three teams has managed to keep a perfect record after Week 3 of the competition.

Paire Football Club eked out a 3-2 victory over MP United last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field to bounce back from a 1-4 season debut loss to Tan Holdings (Feb. 9). MP United and Tan Holdings had earlier met on Feb. 16 with the former cruising to a 4-1 triumph also at the Hopwood pitch.

Brian Lee made back-to-back goals for MP United in their game against Tan Holdings, while new recruit Tanapon Unsa and mainstay Jehn Joyner added one each. Sean Perez, who is also a new recruit for Tan Holdings, transferring from Matansa and taking over Unsa's spot, scored the lone goal for the losing squad.

After winning its season opener, MP United fell short against Paire. Mason Fruit, Shi



MP United FC's Enrico Del Rosario collides with teammate Jake Lee as he goes for a header during their boys U18 game against Tan Holdings FC in Week 2 of the NMIFA youth spring league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Peng Lin, and Amami Sakano delivered a goal each for Paire, while only Unsa and Yong Jun Jeon scored for MP United.

## BOYS U15 Tan Holdings 1, Shirley's 0

Tan Holdings also bounced back

from a season-opening loss after edging Shirley's FC last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Louie Calayag scored the winning goal for Tan Holdings, which bowed to MP United, 0-2, last Feb. 15. Shirley's dropped to a 0-3 record, as it also lost to MP United in the opening of the

season and fell to Paire, 0-3, last Feb. 16.

## MP United 3, Matansa 3

The other boys U15 game last week saw MP United drawing Matansa FC.

MP United forced a standoff after Wataru Tajima scored the equalizer just three minutes before the game wrapped up. It was Tajima's second goal in the match, as he drew first blood for MP United at the 46th minute after his team was shut out in the first half.

Matansa led after the first 45 minutes of play, 1-0, off Euly James Ermitanio's goal in the 22nd and the striker got his second goal in the 41st for their 2-0 lead before Tajima broke the spell for MP United. Ermitanio then had a hat-trick after scoring anew in the 72nd minute, but MP United stayed in the game with Daniel Lim earning his first goal four minutes later.

## GIRLS U15 Matansa 8, MP United 1

Matansa posted a lopsided win against MP United (1-2) last week at Hopwood to keep its perfect record (2-0) in the girls U15.

Lyka Sally scored three goals for Matansa, while Patricia

Angela Santiago and Maile Aldrich had two apiece. Matansa's eighth goal came off MP United's miscue. Negahr Rastguiy nailed the lone goal for MP United, which recorded its first win of the season against Tan Holdings, 2-0, last Feb. 16, off Rastguiy's pair of goals.

## Tan Holdings 1, Shirley's 0

After dropping its season debut,

Tan Holdings recovered big time last Saturday, pulling off an upset over erstwhile undefeated Shirley's.

Chloe Salvosa canned the lone goal in the game in the first half to hand Shirley's its first loss in three games. Shirley's opened the season with a 3-0 victory over MP United (1-2) on Feb. 9 and made it back-to-back after another shutout win over Paire (0-2), 3-0, on Feb. 16.

# 9 teams confirm entry to Shirley's caging



Nine teams have already confirmed their participation in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League that will open shop in April at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Leading the list are 2011 finalists DFS Galleria and Public School System. Joining them are Mobil, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort, Kalayaan, Inc., Docomo Pacific, GPPC, and host Shirley's Coffee Shop. Bank of Guam, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Trading, Co., Pacific Star, Aqua Resort/Pacific Islands Club, and TBK Corp. have also expressed their interest in the league, but have yet to commit.

Teams have until March 8 to confirm participation in the Shirley's caging, which will kick on first week of April. Entrance fee is \$500 and squads have an option to avail the registration fee and uniform package for only \$750. The uniform set is for a 14-player roster and will be available on a first come,

first serve basis, as only eight colors are offered.

Each uniform set costs only \$15.50 and is made from high-quality materials, according to league coordinator Irish Pagarao, who added that participating squads must be in their complete uniforms during the opening of the league.

Games in the Shirley's caging will be played three times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each squad must have nine players who are employees of the company they are representing. Participating teams can recruit five more players, who must not be employed by another company that will also play in the 2013 season. Then at game time, teams must have at least one employee on the court. Violation of the special rule will result to technical fouls charged to the offending squad.

For more information, contact Pagarao at 285-1138 or Boy Lingcaso at 789-7943. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

# Chinatown slips past Maplas

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Chinatown showed poise in the home-stretch to pull off a 62-57 victory over Maplas La Mani in the second game in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Chinatown bungled a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter, but delivered clutch baskets in the final minute of the match to improve to a 6-3 record and end Maplas La Mani's four-game winning streak.

After trailing by 16 points at the end of the third period, 31-47, Maplas (4-2) cut the deficit to as low as 4 points twice, 51-55, 1:04 left on the clock, and 57-53, 46 seconds remaining on the clock. However, Chinatown hung in there in the end, converting a fastbreak layup and three free throws to foil Maplas' repeated comeback bids.

After Dennis Morales muffed a baseline drive that could have moved Maplas within 2 points, Vincent Pua was fouled and made a split, while Arvin Avila collared the offensive board for the put-back that gave Chinatown a 60-53 cushion. A quick basket from Morales kept Maplas in the game, but not for long, as his team was forced to give up fouls with time winding down. Johnston Alokoa, Pua, and Avila then cashed in from the foul line, making one



Chinatown's Justin Zapanta takes off for a layup against Maplas' Ryan Odicka during the fourth quarter of their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

free throw each. Avila's split gave Chinatown the insurance baskets, while Maplas finally gave up when Rommel Usi faltered on his triple with less than 10 seconds left in the game.

Maplas played catch up in the fourth after Chinatown waxed hot from downtown in the third and threatened a breakaway. Paul Quizon made two triples, while Jamin Dela Cruz and Norita had one each to give Chinatown a 16-point advantage after the rain-delayed third canto.

At the resumption of the third quarter, Maplas was only behind by 4, 23-27, but slowly collapsed when it nailed only two field goals in the next five minutes and missed a couple of long shots and several charities. Maplas' free throw woes continued in the fourth where they muffed more than 10. Had Maplas made its shots from the stripe, the game could have gone its way.

## JWS 80, Gualo Rai 76

In the other Division B match,

JWS was steady from the foul line, converting five to eke out the 4-point win over Gualo Rai.

The victory snapped JWS' three-game losing skid and improved its record to 2-4, while Gualo Rai dropped to a 3-3 slate.

Cecilio Bisana drained two free throws, while White Capalad sank three in the closing seconds to bring JWS back in the win column. Bisana went on to top-score for JWS with his 25 points, while Capalad added 21 markers. Rodmar Diaz also had 21 markers to help JWS' cause.

The trio teamed up for 19 of their 25 points in the third, turning a 32-36 halftime deficit to a 57-56 cushion at the end of the third. The three JWS players were still at it in the fourth to keep their team in the driver's seat and deny Gualo Rai its fourth win.

## First Game

**JWS 80** – Bisana 25, Capalad 21, Diaz 21, Buenabajo 6, Canoy 5, Saplan 4.

**Gualo Rai/Morales 76** – Factor 19, Espinosa 13, Deleon Guerrero 10, Capuyon 7, Ybanez 6, Galulu 6, Yap 4, Fidelino 2, Cayading 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-12, 32-36, 57-56, 80-76.

## Second Game

**Chinatown 62** – Quizon 17, Avila 13, Noriat 10, Pua 6, Dela Cruz 4, William 4, Alokoa 1.

**Maplas La Mani 57** – Morales 26, Aguilar 18, Aniciete 4, R. Usi 4, Odicka 2, Rivera 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-14, 27-23, 47-31, 62-57.



Mobil's Bartley Demapan, left, is blocked by PIC/NVM's Ponce Rasa during a regular season game in the 2011 edition of the Shirley's caging played at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Knicks overcome  
Curry's 54 to  
beat Warriors

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Source: 49ers  
to send Smith  
to KC

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 'Palestine is team to beat in Nepal'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team's game against Palestine will be the toughest, as the Blue Ayuyus will be challenging the favored team in Group D of the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers.



The Commonwealth strikers will take on the Al-Fursan (the Knights) on March 4 at 2:30pm (around 7pm Saipan time), not on March 6 as earlier reported. Palestine holds the highest FIFA ranking (No. 153) in its bracket, as Bangladesh and host Nepal are ranked No. 169 and No. 174, respectively, and the CNMI has no FIFA ranking. The Al-Fursan also had the best finish

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Members of the CNMI Men's National Team listen to coach Luam Khen Koo, far left, during a training session at the Nepal Army Physical Training Centre in Kathmandu last Tuesday.

## Falcons, 2 other teams still perfect in Majors

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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Star Association Falcons, Attorney Vince Torres Comets II, and the IT&E OI'Aces remain unscathed as the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League season entered its third week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons are leading the pack with three wins in as many games, while the OI'Aces and Comets II remain unbeaten with two wins apiece.

Other notables include Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Legals who have taken two out of three matches, while the Natibu Sports Association Braves, the Pinnacle Rockies, and the Bank of Saipan Red Sox are all in waiting to take the field again after coming out victorious in their debuts.

In the middle of the pack comes Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero's Comets I, JPO Enforcers, and the Jets who all hold a win and a loss on their cards.

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The Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Legals have so far won two games and dropped one in the Major Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League season.

## Sweeps dominate Day 2 of Sun Palace tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Majority of the matches in Day 2 of the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex were decided after only two games.

Mario Diola and Joel Ortega set the tone for the day after sweeping their foes in one of the first two matches scheduled last weekend. The duo made short work of Jordan Pangelinan and J.P. Nopia, 21-11, 21-19, in the Pool B match in the men's doubles B at 5pm. Also set at the same time was the women's doubles C tiff between Havika Farro and Myk-kie Caracut and Sally and Tina Lee with the first pair prevailing, 21-16, 18-21, 21-17.

In the second set of matches, all duels at Courts 1, 2, and 3 were done after only two games. In the men's doubles B, Edwin Maratas and Saul Gargallos swept Jorge Olanda and Narlou Achas, 21-17, 21-11; Saliya Rajapaksh and Oh Im Bog downed

See SWEEPS on Page 30



Marylyn Montano leans back for a return during her and Cheng Saturno's women's B doubles game similar against Merlie Tolentino and Christy Villafior in the Sun Palace Hotel tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

## Don't jump to conclusions on Pistorius

In sport, Oscar Pistorius demonstrated how easy it is to be wrong about people. An athlete with prosthetic limbs competing at the Olympic Games? No way!

That lesson—don't leap to hasty, ill-informed conclusions—is worth remembering now as the double-amputee Olympian stands charged with murder in the shooting of his girlfriend.

Her life is gone. Anyone who declares that his life, for all intents and purposes, is now over, too, had better be 1000 percent sure of

themselves. The question "What happened?" is, of course, natural. It was on all our lips. But the response cannot be found by poring through old interviews Pistorius gave or from his now silent Twitter account. This is a murder investigation, not a guessing game. Serious stuff that needs to be treated as such.

At times like these, when a public figure we perhaps liked and admired is accused of things that are abhorrent, we want answers

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JOHN LEICESTER  
AP Sports Columnist

John Leicester is an international sports columnist for The Associated Press.

